



Company bosses tell of impact of £122k fraud

A FAMILY construction company which was defrauded out of £122,000 by its own accounts manager has said it will take until 2044 to put the company right.

Ann Jones of Heritage Way, Llany-mynech, was jailed on Friday for two years and eight months for defrauding the money from Jim Dorricott Construction Ltd.

Her son, Craig Smith, was also put behind bars for acquiring £38,000 of the money, some coming in a salary from his mother to fund alcohol, drugs and gambling addictions.

After the case the family, who were emotional as the sentence was passed, were pleased the pair had been given custodial sentences.

Shaun Dorricott, speaking on be-

half of the family, explained the effect the ordeal is still having on the family and the business.

He said: "When we found out Ann Jones had been stealing money from us, my father could not believe it.

"It has put an enormous effect on the business and I believe the growth of business has been stalled substantially as a result.

"I also believe that she put jobs and livelihoods of all our employees at risk.

"We are still finding items that she has hidden in the accounts on a day to day basis.

"She has reconciliation files in the accounts that date right up to 2044, so it will keep causing problems until the year 2044."

After the women who previously ran the accounts left, the Minsterley-based company, which was founded in 1984, appointed Jones in March 2013. However, within months of her taking the post she began falsifying invoices and directing money from the company's accounts into her son's account.

● Jailed - See Page 5

HEALTH

Suspension of birth services at unit is extended

THE temporary suspension of births at Oswestry maternity unit has been further extended.

Inpatient services will now be suspended until 8am on May 20. Birthing services at the unit have suffered a series of closures in the last 12 months.

The birthing service was due to re-open on Sunday after a two-week suspension but bosses say decisions on the deployment of midwives have led to a further closure.

Inpatient services at Ludlow's maternity are also suspended until 8am on May 20.

Both units remain open between 8am and 8pm for antenatal and postnatal services.

Sarah Jamieson, head of midwifery at Shrewsbury and Telford Hospital NHS Trust, said: "Despite our best efforts, the issues which have been affecting our maternity service, and which have been well publicised, continue.

"We continue to deploy our midwives appropriately to maintain choice as much as possible while ensuring the services we provide are safe. We are trying to ensure that we maintain services where our mothers are choosing to be."

CUTS 'WILL HIT YOUNG FAMILIES'

Report by Jonny Drury

THE cutting of services at children's centres will make it more difficult for young Oswestry families to access the vital support they need, councillors fear.

Services at two centres in the town and at another in the nearby village of Morda are set to be axed after Shropshire Council backed a countywide shake-up.

The proposal will now go out to consultation and could see services at children's centres at Holy Trinity School and Woodside School in Oswestry and at Morda Primary School lost. An Early Help Family Hub will be retained at The Centre in Oswestry. Shropshire Council bosses say the move will reduce costs but still allow families to get the help they need.

But Oswestry Town Councillor Nikki Hughes said the move will hit young families hard. She said: "It is going to affect families across Oswestry and make no mistake this isn't about joining up services, it is simply about saving money. It will affect families in Morda and other areas. The centres are for families who are already struggling and they will be hit again by having to get public transport to The Centre in Oswestry. It just seems we are having to deal with more cuts and it seems to be targeted at younger people."

Robert Milton, chairman of Oswestry Rural Parish Council, said with Morda getting bigger, community facilities were needed more than ever. He added: "This raises big concerns and will cause major problems for the young families in the village."

● Backed - See Page 2

Spotlight put on dangers of plastic pollution



Jenny Roberts, left, and Mandy Price held a plastic awareness event at Oswestry outdoor market. Photo by John Sambrooks.

THE danger of plastic pollution has been highlighted in Oswestry by campaigners.

Mandy Price is one of a number of people who feel strongly about the issue and has started a campaign called Do It For David in honour of broadcaster and naturalist Sir David Attenborough.

Volunteers came together at Oswestry's outdoor market with a stall, selling plastic alternatives and educating people on the threat to the world's oceans by plastic waste.

A choir from Oswestry School also performed a newly-written song penned for the Do It For David campaign.

Mandy said: "We would just like to say a huge thank-you to everyone who made it possible - the council, family, friends, colleagues, pupils and followers.

"It was a lovely day and gives us real hope for the future that we can turn this dreadful situation around and make a difference.

"We hope that this raises people's aware-

ness of plastic pollution and they will begin to think about their consumption of it and start to think of ways to reduce this.

"Ultimately, we would love to see governments, manufacturers and scientists come up with a better way to re-use the plastic that we use so that we keep it out of the environment and particularly the oceans. Otherwise it could stay in there for up to 200 years and continue to wreak havoc on our precious marine life."

EMPLOYMENT

Jobs created as Costa opens up

THE coffee house chain Costa has opened at the former Pinewood Cafe building in Welshpool creating six jobs.

Area manager Brice Perdereau, for Costa Coffee franchisees Larentia, which runs the Welshpool and Newtown branches, said: "We've had a lot of interest and people coming in from the moment we opened.

"At the moment we've decided to open on weekdays from 7am to 6.30pm, but some people have suggested that we open at 6.30am."

INSIDE

War games at historic castle



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Plan to axe children's centres' services backed

Report by Jordan Reynolds

PLANS to withdraw services at 20 children's centres across Shropshire are to go to public consultation.

Shropshire Council's cabinet passed plans to reduce the services from 26 different buildings to six – saving £875,000.

And now a public consultation will open so that residents can give their views on the proposed changes, which include a "small number" of compulsory redundancies, along with voluntary redundancies, council officials have said.

Under the proposals, services would be delivered from The Centre in Oswestry, Richmond House in Shrewsbury, Crowmoor Centre in Shrewsbury, Rockspring Centre in Ludlow and buildings in Whitechurch and Bridgnorth that are yet to be decided. Services would also be delivered at community venues and homes. The centres facing cuts to services include those at Holy Trinity School and Woodside School in Oswestry and at Morda Primary School. Councillor Nicholas Bardsley, portfolio holder for children and young people, said: "It saves families from getting into trouble, or getting into more trouble, ultimately, that saves the council money but more importantly it reduces the chances of the children being taken into care. Nobody wants to bring children into care, the policy needs to evolve and change. At the moment we are spending a considerable amount on buildings, some of which are very poorly used, this is quite a radical proposal. It doesn't mean buildings would have to close, if a school is already using the building it would take over the running costs."

Lib Dem's Roger Evans said he had concerns about what is being proposed for young people. He said: "Are we taking money from vulnerable people?"

Council leader Peter Nutting said the council had to change the way it went forward for "all sorts of services" as a council.

The public consultation will open on May 29 and responses can be received until July 12. A number of public meetings will be held in the county.

Lynwen named as hospital's health hero



Lynwen Morris receives her Health Hero Award from hospital chief executive Mark Brandreth, watched by colleagues

PLAY specialist Lynwen Morris has been named as the latest Health Hero Award winner at Oswestry Orthopaedic Hospital.

Lynwen is part of the team on Alice Ward, the hospital's dedicated children's ward and was nominated by Jess Meredith, Alice Ward clerk.

Jess said: "Lynwen constantly goes above and beyond to deliver outstanding patient care."

"She ensures patients are at ease during their pre-operative assessment, on their

way up to surgery, in the anaesthetic room and once they have returned to the ward after their operation."

"She puts so much hard work into finding activities and distraction methods to help the little ones occupied."

"Not only does she help the children, she reassures and looks after their parents too. Having an operation can be a worrying time for the children and their parents but thanks to Lynwen's hard work, their anxieties can be relieved."

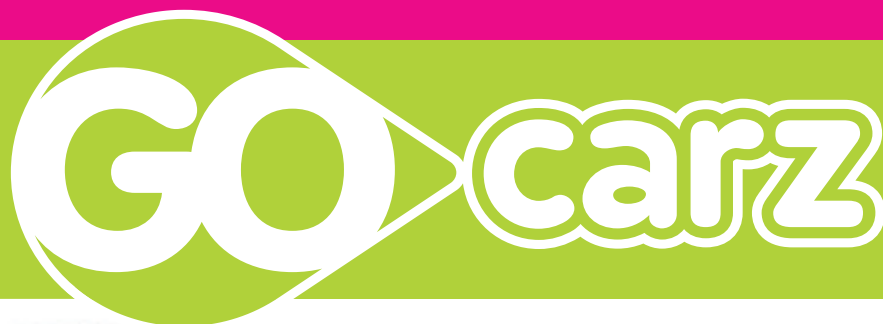
"Nothing is too much to ask and she is such a valued member of our team on Alice Ward."

The award was announced at the monthly meeting of the board of directors and was presented to Lynwen by chief executive Mark Brandreth.

Lynwen said: "I am very honoured to have been nominated for this award and was completely gobsmacked to have won. A huge thank you to Jess for firstly nominating me but also surprising me."

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Raiders put padlock on gates at station

THIEVES padlocked the gates of a police station while they carried out a raid on a nearby cash machine.

It is believed thousands of pounds were stolen from an ATM in Oswestry town centre in the early hours of April 26.

But it is thought the suspects padlocked the gates to Oswestry Police Station to delay officers before targeting the cash machine at WH Smith in Cross Street.

West Mercia Police said the incident did not delay officers but they are carrying out investigations.

The padlock was discovered at about 3am as officers left the station to carry out routine patrols of the area.

Officers have viewed the CCTV which shows a vehicle pulling up outside the building in Park Street. The suspects then get out of the car and padlock the gates before making off.

However, they said it did not delay them in responding to the incident and were able to quickly remove the lock once it was discovered.

Safer Neighbourhood Team Inspector Tracy Ryan said: "Officers identified the padlock when they were leaving the station to carry out routine patrols and, fortunately, they were able to quickly cut it open and it didn't delay them in attending an emergency or incident."

"We're carrying out enquiries into the incident and looking at whether or not it is linked to the burglary at WH Smiths and would appeal for anyone with information to come forward and speak to us."

Police received the report at 5.40am when a passer-by saw the damage to the shop.

Considerable damage was done and the shop was forced to close for the day while it was made secure.

It is being linked to a similar incident in Ludlow which took place earlier that night. Enquiries are on-going and anyone with information should contact West Mercia Police on 101 quoting reference 56S 260418.

TV island theme was 'dreadful', says Tan

Report by Sue Austin

THE experience was something that will stay with him forever, battling for survival for five weeks on a deserted island.

But the portrayal of Tan Avital and other contestants in the Channel Four series, *The Island*, has left the young Oswestry man disillusioned and disappointed.

Tan, or Nathaniel, was one of 16 who took part in the latest Bear Grylls show.

Producers of the show decided to split the group into two – those who earned around £100,000 and others who were earning near the minimum wage or who were not earning at all.

But Tan said he was disappointed at the way the divisions were portrayed, even if the end conclusion of the series was harmonious between the two groups.

Tan, who was one of the 'haves', said: "We knew that the series would look at people on different earnings and how they would deal with survival but I had no idea that the idea was to pit us against each other. The whole concept of dividing us from the beginning was dreadful and we never realised what was happened until we saw the series."

Tan, who works in Cambridge, said he did not earn a massive salary, simply average for someone who has been to university.

He said: "I don't see wealth as something that should divide people. Unfortunately it was the programme that split us into two groups, rich v poor."

He said the filming only showed a tiny part of what happened on the island and not enough of the battle for survival.

He said: "What wasn't shown was the mental effort of keeping the fire going when we had 20 hours of freezing cold rain."

"The show concentrated on the divide – it didn't show that I walked for three hours back into the jungle to help the other team carry their possessions. It portrayed rich people as snobby and poor people as common, which is gross and not something that I have even considered."



Tan Avital, third from left, was one of the contestants on this year's *The Island* with Bear Grylls

Remove tools from vehicles, police warn

POLICE have warned workmen and van drivers to remove tools from their vehicles after a spate of break-ins.

At least three vans were broken into in the Oswestry area.

A Ford Transit van in Rowlands Close, Morda was broken into overnight on April 25. All the tools inside the van, including sets of power and hand tools, were stolen. Officers say

some of the tools and boxes were later found in Gateacre playing fields on the other side of Oswestry.

Between 2am to 6.30am on April 26 sets of power tools were taken from a Ford Transit which was attacked on a driveway in Martins Field, Trefonen.

On the same night power tools were stolen from a van in Windsor Road, Oswestry. Empty cases that

had contained the tools were found at Gateacre playing fields.

Police say that again on the night of April 25/26 number plates were unscrewed and stolen from a vehicle on a driveway in Woolston, Oswestry. Anyone with information or who may have seen anyone acting suspiciously or who may have been offered tools is urged to contact the police.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Curtain goes up on new season

A FILM society is beginning its eighth season of showing films at a community cinema in Oswestry.

Oswestry Film Society screens films on the first and third Tuesdays of each month and the new season runs from May to September, at the town's Kinokulture cinema.

The new schedule started last week with acclaimed US indie drama *The Glass Castle*, starring Oscar-winner Brie Larson.

A season ticket costs £24 and on the door tickets are available at £6 per film.

For more information, to view trailers and buy tickets, visit the website at oswestryfilmsociety.com.

Farms are the target of thieves

FARMS have been targeted in break-ins in the Oswestry area.

A green Yamaha Grizzly agricultural quad bike was stolen from a farm yard at Penybryn, St Martins, overnight between April 26/27. Police say the vehicle may have been taken about about 8pm.

In a daytime raid on April 27 electric fencing batteries, a welder and a grinder were stolen from open farm buildings at Hengoed, Oswestry. Between 8.10am to 4.30pm on the same day a large catalytic converter was stolen from beside the back door of a house in Cambrian Drive, Oswestry.

Whisky and gin talk for group

THE May meeting of North Shropshire & Borders Smallholders and Country Living Group will be held on May 23 at 7.30pm at The Bradford Arms, Llanymynech.

Chris Toller, from the Henstone Distillery, is coming to talk to members of the group about craft whisky and gin.

The cost for visitors is £5 single or £7.50 per couple, members free.

For more information about the event call (01952) 740242 or visit northshrop-smallholder.co.uk or visit the group's Facebook page.

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Mike Markham

Tributes paid to tennis coach Mike

A SPORTS coach who became known as Mr Tennis has died. Mike Markham was head coach at Oswestry Team Tennis and had been involved in tennis across Shropshire for more than 20 years. Clive Knight, a trustee of the club, said: "The court complex is

leased from Oswestry Town Council and Mike worked very hard with councillors, officers and park keepers to keep them informed and ensure the complex was always fit for purpose on a daily basis. "Mike was undoubtedly the glue that held the club together on a day

by day basis. Mike could be relied upon 100 per cent to be there for the children and always had their best interests at heart whether on or off court. Mike will be very much missed not only by Oswestry people but across the country, but his tennis legacy will go on through

Oswestry Team Tennis and elsewhere." There will be a memorial service in Oswestry on May 19 at Holy Trinity Church starting at 2.30pm. This will be a short, light and children friendly event followed by a get-together at Oswestry Golf Club.

TNS insist £10k was paid back in grant controversy

Report by Jonny Drury

A PROFESSIONAL football club has insisted it has paid back part of grant money it was given to install more seats at its ground.

The New Saints in Oswestry were granted £80,000 to install new seats to allow the club to compete in European matches.

It emerged earlier this year that there was an agreement to pay the money back over five years, but that little or no money had actually changed hands. The club had struck up an agreement to pay the money to the Oswestry Joint Economic Board, which would dish

Play scheme set to be dissolved

A CHARITY that has provided families and children with play activities and equipment is set to close.

Play Montgomeryshire has revealed it is to be dissolved as a charity and will end all of its projects helping families and children from August this year.

A statement from the group said: "It is with great sadness that we must inform everybody of the proposed dissolution of Play Montgomeryshire, which unfortunately means that all our current projects will cease to operate from August 31, 2018.

"We give you formal notice of an Extraordinary General Meeting to be held by Play Montgomeryshire on May 21 at 5.15pm in Plas Dolerw, Newtown. The purpose of the meeting is to pass a resolution to dissolve the charity and prepare for the transfer of its assets."

out money to projects in the area. The club was supposed to be involved with deciding which projects benefitted from the money. It later emerged Shropshire Council was looking into the matter amid claims no money had been paid back.

Now Ian Williams, chief operating officer at the Welsh Premier League club, insisted the club paid £10,000 early in the agreement.

And he blames an administrative error on behalf of the council for any unpaid money.

He said the club was never notified of any further meetings of the board or any projects until an invoice landed at the Park Hall-based club a few months ago. He said: "We have done everything above board. The £10,000 was paid back early on, despite not being involved in the decision on the projects.

"Since then we heard nothing until we had an invoice recently. If we had been involved in the way we should have, all the money would have been paid off.

"We're now in correspondence with Shropshire Council and hopefully it will be resolved soon."

Call-up is made for actors



Some of the actors who will be taking part in the performances for the festival "WE need you" is the wartime call to arms for people to take part in plays as part of the Wilfred Owen Centenary Festival.

In November the Llanymynech Amateur Dramatics Society (LADS) will be producing two plays linked to the Wilfred Owen Centenary Festival, which takes place in Oswestry's Cae Glas Park.

The Forester's House, written by Neil Rhodes of the society, depicts the last hours in the life of Wilfred Owen and his fellow

soldiers, as they prepared to advance across the Sambre-Oise canal in the final days of the war. Meanwhile, The Accrington Pals follows young soldiers from a mill town who signed up together in a "Pals" regiment, and also the lives of the women they left behind. The society is looking for young men aged between 18 and 30-ish to take part in the productions.

People can contact email info@ladstheatre.co.uk or call (01691) 830558.

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Shropshire STAR

Woman jailed for £122k fraud from building firm

Report by Jonny Drury

A MOTHER who defrauded a construction company she worked for out of more than £122,000 has been jailed.

Ann Jones, 58, of Heritage Way, Llanymynech, near Oswestry was jailed for two years and eight months at Shrewsbury Crown Court for stealing the money from Jim Dorricott Construction Ltd of Minsterley, near Shrewsbury.

Part of the money was given to her son Craig Smith, 36, of Balfour Close, Northampton, who was jailed for 10 months for acquiring criminal property.

Company to be part of dragon bid

A COMPANY has become the first name to join a £3 million project to build a Welsh dragon tourist attraction near Oswestry, eight years after it was first launched.

Back in 2010, auctioneer Simon Wingett unveiled ambitious plans to build an 80ft bronze dragon with a visitor centre which would create 50 jobs.

After years of talks, it was announced last week that jewellery company Clogau Gold will be the first company to become part of the project.

The company, which celebrates its 30th anniversary next year, has agreed a 10-year deal to open a boutique retail outlet at the complex, which is earmarked for land at Halton near Chirk. The plans remain large, with a blueprint for the dragon on a 40ft slate tower, next to the 12,000 sq ft culture and visitor centre and parking for up to 400 vehicles. It will be surrounded by 11 tall monolith stones, decorated with scenes from the Welsh text, The Mabonogion. There will also be an amphitheatre for performances, a 12-acre garden and cafe, a sandwich bar, merchandise shop and art gallery. Mr Wingett said: "It's an absolute honour to have such a well-known and respected brand as Clogau on board, we we are thrilled they will be joining us."

Hill walk plans are finalised



Sue Batley, Alen Bothwell and Ann Hindley get ready for the Trefonen Hill Walk Weekend PREPARATIONS are in full swing for a charity hill walk weekend.

Trefonen Hill Walk Weekend began over 30 years ago to raise money for local charities.

The event has grown to what is today and will see a host of activities take place across the bank holiday weekend at the end of the month.

Organisers have been working hard to put the finishing touches to the event ahead of the big day and Ann Hindley is hoping the weather will come out to play its part.

She said: "The whole of the village comes out which is great, and people come from outside the village."

"It has been running for well over 30 years, and we have so much going on through the weekend."

"This year we have a tent with all our details, which is going to be rented by various different events and will go on tour around the area which is another good thing."

Taking place will be a scarecrow competition, a photograph competition, a quiz, a family run, barbecue and much more.

There will also be a talent show, and will be in memory and dedicated to the late David Topham, who has been involved in the weekend in the past. This year the money raised will go to the Shelter Box charity, and mental health charity MIND.

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EMERGENCY 24 HOUR RESPONSE

BREEZE ABOUT TOWN

This week I took the opportunity to spend some time with Powys County Council's under-fire children's services team in a personal bid to discover just how bad things really are. I left convinced that things in North Powys are moving in the right direction. Last year's damning report into children's services warned that children were at risk and as county councillors all 73 of us have to accept a collective responsibility for that in our roles as corporate parents. I have little doubt that the inspection report delivered back in October 2017 was fully justified. Horrific stories are constantly being unearthed and it is fair to say the council came close to a catastrophe. There may be some justification into calls for a witch hunt to find out just who knew what and why the true picture was being kept from councillors. But the time and resources needed to carry out such an investigation would deflect from the job in hand.

This week the council was meeting to discuss a follow-up report which points to unsustainable levels of sickness and staff turnover, but recognises that improvements have been made. The worry is that such critical reports can contribute to the problem. What has become obvious is that there were huge gaps in staffing levels at all grades and my time with the Welshpool team revealed just how frustrated staff had become at being unable to carry out their jobs to the highly professional standard demanded in such delicate situations. And quite naturally when your calls for help are ignored and you are left isolated and unable to function properly there's a tendency to head for the door – hence the staff shortage problem, a vicious circle.

Other parts of Powys may not be responding so well but in Welshpool I found a North Powys team simply buzzing with enthusiasm and a desire to turn things around for the good of the young people in the area in need of support.

The managers and team members were keen to point out just how much things had improved in the last six months and their dedicated and professional enthusiasm left me in no doubt that in North Powys things really are getting better – a gut feeling backed up by the figures.

Those who were responsible for allowing things to become so bad, those who clearly did not support the staff at the coal face and those who kept others in the dark will have to live with their consciences. These are children's lives we are dealing with.



Meirion Owen and his famous Quack Pack



The action-packed sport of scurry racing



The BASC Gundog Display team

Entertainment galore at popular spring festival

The Royal Welsh Spring Festival is coming soon. KAREN COMPTON looks at the attractions on offer.

THE Royal Welsh Spring Festival main ring is always a hive of activity, and this year there is even more going on for festival-goers to watch and enjoy.

Throughout the weekend, and in between the show jumping and working hunter classes, the main ring will be packed full of entertaining shows and demonstrations.

Back by popular demand, the exciting and action-packed equestrian sport of scurry racing will be among the attractions in the festival main ring at this year's Royal Welsh Spring Festival.

The first scurry driving event in the Scurry Drivers Association season, this exciting sport gets the crowds gasping and cheering as pairs of ponies pulling specially-built racing carriages weave their way through a series of obstacles at break-neck speed. As the drivers urge their ponies on to notch up the fastest time, their grooms battle to keep the carriages from overturning.

World record holder, James Dylan and his team of amazingly talented riders will also be keeping the spectators on their toes by performing their incredible motorcycle stunts. With their entertaining commentary and high level of skill the James Dylan's Stuntworld Motorcycle Stunt Show will keep you entertained as you watch on in amazement.

Always a firm favourite with visitors, Meirion Owen and his famous Quack Pack will be joining be at the festival this



World record holder James Dylan is bringing his team of talented bikers

year. Combining the skills of his clever Border Collies with cheeky Indian Runner ducks the humorous and hugely entertaining show is not to be missed. Children and adults alike will be transfixed throughout the display and will love the opportunity to jump into the ring and join in with the show.

Visitors will also be able to watch in awe as the BASC Gundog Display team show off the talents of the skilful handlers and clever dogs. The display is geared towards showing visitors how anyone can train a dog, given time and patience, with lots of hints and tips to take home and put into practice with our own dogs.

You'll also have an opportunity to watch a highly addictive game of Footgolf, a new craze sweeping the country

that combines the best of football and golf, two of the most popular sports in the world. The object of the game is to get the ball into the hole using only your feet in the fewest number of shots possible.

Completely new for this year, the festival main ring will also host an ever-popular tug-of-war competition along with a spectacular display called the Festival of Welsh Land Rovers. Made up of Welsh Land Rover clubs, displaying a large number of vehicles, ranging from vintage models up to the highly modified vehicles used in endurance events in the modern day.

"We pride ourselves in providing a full and exciting day out for the whole family here at the Spring Festival" says Kay Spencer, festival director. "Not

only is it excellent value for money, with children 16 and under entering for free, there is also a packed programme of workshops, have-a-go activities and interesting things to see and do whilst you're here.

"Ensuring that the crowds are kept entertained and have something to look forward to throughout the day is very important to us and we are delighted that the festival main ring is going to be action-packed throughout the weekend."

The Royal Welsh Spring Festival takes place at the Royal Welsh Showground in Llanellwedd, Builth Wells on May 19 and 20 and is a fantastic weekend-long celebration of smallholding and rural life.

Along with all things 'food' the event is packed full of interesting things to see and do, live music, country sports, livestock, competitions, shopping, demonstrations and fun, have-a-go activities... the perfect day out for all.

Visitors to the festival on May 20 will be in for a sweet-treat from Great British Bake Off favourites; Val Stones and Louise Williams.

First-time visitors to the Spring Festival, Val and Louise will be in the food hall wowing the crowd with their baking prowess, passing on their cookery top tips and sharing tastings.

As well as the Bake Off pair, the busy demo kitchen in the food hall has a full programme of game cookery showcases from the popular BASC chefs throughout the weekend.

Once all the hustle and bustle of the day has died down a little, the food and drink quarter will burst into life with live music and performers along with an array of street food stalls and producers selling all manner of delicacies and delights. Don't forget, all children aged 16 and under get free entry.

Visit www.rwas.wales

PETER RHODES



AN investment expert was explaining on the radio that companies prefer to have younger shareholders because 'younger people have the longest time horizons'. Which is one way of reminding oldies of their mortality.

THE latest Romeo and Juliet at the Royal Shakespeare Theatre is deeply politically correct. Male characters are played by female actors, a straight character becomes a gay man and the casting is colour-blind and multiracial.

What could be fairer and more enlightened than that?

But one inequality remains in all theatres. It is ageism. Old characters are always played by older actors and young characters by younger actors. In the name of fairness, we should demand to see Shakespeare's Verona governed by pre-school toddlers and terrorised by ancient crones on mobility scooters. Romeo would be played by an old lady, and Juliet by an old bloke. I bet some bright young thing (or even a bright old thing) is already working on it.

IN Coventry, a would-be house seller is being Twittered mercilessly after displaying his terraced house on Rightmove. It's not that the place is small and allegedly dingy. He has become a figure of fun because the walls are plastered with more than 30 images of scantily-clad women.

I was reminded of an incident on a newspaper (long ago and far away, you understand) when the advertising staff were in fits of laughter over the images from a house for sale.

Outside, it was a typical 1930s semi. But inside it was a riot of mock-Tudor beams set in the walls and ceilings. The finishing touch to this latter-day Anne Hathaway's Cottage was a collection of photos of Samantha Fox (ask your grandfather), lovingly pasted to the walls. There is, as any estate agent can confirm, no accounting for taste.

INDEED, it gets grimmer. I recall an estate agent on telly some time ago trying to explain to a client the difficulty of selling his house without a few changes, such as removing the WC from the centre of the bedroom.

The seller seemed puzzled that anyone might object.

TALKING of house sales, a price-comparison website reports that potential buyers are now more likely to inquire about the strength of the broadband than the friendliness, or otherwise, of the neighbours.

Big mistake. When your broadband drops out, that's when you really need good neighbours.

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HOW CAN EX-WIFE CLAIM PART OF MY LOTTERY WIN IF WE HAVE A DECREE ABSOLUTE?

Q: I've just won the lottery! Not enough to buy an island I'm afraid but certainly enough for me to live comfortably for the next few years. However, as soon as the news broke I had a message from my ex-wife saying that she thinks she is entitled to a share of my winnings. We got divorced last year and we have a Decree Absolute, but she says that because we didn't finalise the financial proceedings and get a "Clean Break Order" we are still financially tied....is this true?

A: Congratulations on your win. However, I am sorry to tell you that your ex-wife's comments are indeed true. Until a final Financial Order is made with a provision for a Clean Break, there is a presumption that you and your ex-wife are still financially tied to each other. This means that she can make financial claims against your for a number of things such as a Lump Sum or a Spousal Maintenance Order. She would also be potentially entitled to make a claim against your estate upon your death.

We always strongly advise our clients that the financial aspect of their divorce should be dealt with at the same time as the divorce itself. This way, when the divorce is finalised you can sleep soundly in the knowledge that a Financial Order is in place and there is no risk of you being pursued in the future. You can part ways knowing that all aspects of the marriage are resolved, in other words, a clean break.

If it is your ex-wife's intention to make a financial claim against you, you should urgently seek the advice of a matrimonial lawyer who can advise you fully on the best way to deal with this.

Further information relating to this question is available from Alison Peters, a Partner with GHP Legal. For an appointment visit www.ghplegal.com or contact one of our offices: Oswestry 01691 659194, Chirk 01691 777949, Wrexham 01978 291456, Llangollen 01978 860313. We offer free legal diagnostic clinics (no appointment necessary). In Oswestry, Wednesdays 12noon-3pm for Personal Injury, Employment & Family matters. In Wrexham, Mondays 9.30am-12noon for Employment matters, 12noon – 3pm for Personal Injury & Family matters. GHP Legal is authorised and regulated by the SRA 51566, and Lexcel Accredited



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Recognise that you lost referendum

BREXIT and the whinging Remainers – we have three or four ex-Prime Ministers, all of whom made a pig's ear of the job, the greedy, unpatriotic shower in the upper house in Westminster, the bolshie turncoats in the lower house whose giant egos give them leave to rise above a democratic vote and refuse to accept the law of the land.

The general public must now realise that you cannot trust anyone in a position of

public power. To all the above – your constant and irrational whinging is seriously impeding the chance of a reasonable Brexit and it is time you all recognised that you lost a democratic vote and to accept that fact in a British way rather than your European way or consider the following. We Brexiteers have only one question for the remaining whingers:-

Have anyone of you had the guts, intelligence or inspiration to take advantage of

your cherished EU's answer to your problem – it's most stupid and dangerous policy – the Open Borders Policy which allows you to up sticks and move permanently to any European member country and live under the protection of the EU's benevolence, prosperity and world peace for your children's future – have you?

No – I thought not!
BOB WYDELL
Oswestry

Not enough is being done to reverse these bad policies

THATCHERISM was a flawed political philosophy, except for the wealthy one per cent – everyone else has been affected.

Unfortunately, too little has been done to reverse these damaging policies.

Margaret Thatcher preached that markets knew better than governments, that markets would deliver wealth. Well markets did know better – they knew how to make themselves outrageously wealthy at the expense of the average citizen. When Thatcher gave power away to the city in the 80s the top one percent only owned seven per cent of the world's wealth – today they own over 50 per cent of the wealth.

Social housing was denigrated. We were told that Thatcherism would allow everyone to own their home. Now 30 years on we have a crisis in social housing and home ownership is falling rapidly as our children and grandchildren cannot afford to buy their homes.

Manufacturing industry is another great Thatcher failure. When Thatcher came to power over 30 per cent of the UK economy was manufacturing – today it is barely 10 per cent and this has led to a never ending trade deficit. Privatising the gas and electricity supply industries was a major theme of her government. She told us that this would give cheap competitive energy. Even Tory governments now recognise that this never happened.

Instead the private cartel supplying our homes charge us much higher prices than the rest of Europe pays. The power and wealth of the top one percent must be drastically reduced, much more of the world's wealth must be owned by communities, the freedom to move money out of the UK must be restricted, and banks need to be local not international.

BILL MCCLEMENTS
Apley

Dictatorship is not negotiation

SO now it looks like the majority of voters in Italy have gone for parties that are anti the EU and mass immigration.

The Italians have had enough of the debt the EU has created.

We have been in balance of trade deficits as long as we have been in the EU.

Europe will be better off as individual states with democratically elected governments by the people of that particular country. Perhaps it would be better if premier May stopped bending to their bullying and just told them what we voted for and not what they want. Dictatorship at its worst, is as I see their attitude to negotiation, if we can call it that.

L THOMAS
Wellington

Home Guard stood down at parade in town



After giving valuable service during the Second World War, the Home Guard was stood down with a parade in Welshpool. This is one of a series of pictures of the event in the Geoff Charles Collection held by the National Library of Wales.

Wasting money on war does not achieve anything

DO local residents in rural Powys and Shropshire have any knowledge of how many wars we are engaged in at the moment or does it not concern us?

Do we wonder why so much money is being used to kill other people in other lands while our social services are being cut?

Air Marshall Greg Bagwell explained the asymmetric nature of air attacks by British Reaper drones, stating that while more than 3,000 ISIS fighters have been killed in UK air strikes since 2014 there has not been a single UK military personnel killed in enemy action.

Do we really want to go on wasting scarce resources on war and targeted assassinations when we know it increases the likelihood of terrorism and does nothing to solve the underlying causes of the wars?

Do we really want to be involved in killing our fellow brothers and sisters and encouraging terrorism?

I do not.
ANGIE ZELTER
Knighton

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

POST

Readers' Letters,
The Chronicle,
14 Salop Road,
Oswestry, SY11 2NU

EMAIL

ian.stjohn@
shropshirestar.co.uk

Letters should be brief and MUST include name, address and telephone number. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters.

Doubting that we will ever leave

LIKE the majority of the UK population, I voted to leave the EU.

I still believe this country should be independent but reluctantly have to admit that this is unlikely to happen. Whether this be complete incompetence by the government or a long term agenda of organised failure, the result will probably be the same.

Perhaps its time to throw in the towel now before further damage is done and admit failure with as much saving of face as possible.

BOB ROSE
Stirchley Park

Time to stop this hypocrisy of EU over trade wars

AT the same time that Monsieur Barnier and his crew are doing their level best to ruin the UK's future trading prospects following Brexit, the president of the European Council Donald Tusk has the nerve to criticise President Trump's proposed tariff on future imports of steel and aluminium into the US stating that "trade wars are hard to win and easy to lose".

Please Mr Tusk tell and explain this to M Barnier. Whilst on the general topic of Brexit I see that in an effort to persuade voters to rethink Brexit, Michael O'Leary is threatening to ground all Ryanair planes, promising that there will be no more cheap holidays in Portugal, Spain or Italy for UK residents. Mr O'Leary is probably too young to recall but long before the UK joined what was then the Common Market and long before Ryanair was ever invented, Sir Freddie's Laker Airways was operating regular flights carrying British holidaymakers to the Mediterranean and the Canary Islands.

MICHAEL HUGHES
Shrewsbury

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Quiz evening will take place

WHETHER you watch Eggheads, University Challenge or the Chase, everyone is invited along to a quiz evening in Welshpool later this month.

The quiz evening will take place at the Church House in the town.

It will take place on May 25.

The event will take place at 7.30pm with doors open at 7pm.

It is a bring your own drink evening but refreshments will be served at half time.

Teams of two to six people are invited at £2 per person.

Question rounds will include general knowledge, films and music.

It has been arranged by those organising the Welshpool 1940s Weekend.

Church hall to host open day

A CHURCH hall in a village near Oswestry is having an open day to show visitors the new work that has taken place over the last two years.

Gobowen All Saint's Church Hall has been upgraded.

It is opening its doors on Saturday from 11am to 4pm to visitors to allow them to have a look at the work.

Organisers say there will be refreshments on offer, face painting, a raffle, crafts and bouncy castles.

The primary school will also be holding a painting competition and there will be displays from Moreton Hall School.

The church hall was built in the 1960s and has been given an upgrade thanks to money raised through a host of fundraising events. New lighting was provided with a grant from the Hilton Jones Trust and in April the work was finished with painting, new male toilets and new chairs, with wifi being installed in the future.

Various cultures celebrated at school's fair



Kevin Shen, Toby Ma and Drake Gao from China at the international celebration



Myles Wilkinson and Brinda Cheema from India at the event

A whole new world!

PUPILS at the senior school of Oswestry School came together to celebrate the many different cultures represented in their first International Fair.

Students from 17 countries shared some of their customs, history and language with pupils from Bellan House in Years 3 to 6 and senior school pupils from First to Fourth Form.

The fair was held in the school gym and was a riot of colour with flags, posters and ornaments.

Some pupils and staff also wore national dress. There were kilts, English football

Report by Jonny Drury

shirts, dirndl, Ukrainian, Nigerian and Romanian shirts, Indian and Thai dress and even some daffodil headdresses.

The international snacks were the highlight of the fair as pupils enjoyed baklava, chocolate brownies and sausages from Bulgaria and Greece while 'Tayto' crisps, rock shandy and homemade cupcakes provided a taste of Ireland. There were Indian papads, Nigerian chin chin, Irn Bru and shortbread from Scotland, Welsh cakes, Georgian Easter cake, Ukrainian sweets, homemade German Brezeln, a homemade Thai sweet called foi thong, Spanish ham and dried sausage and Chinese tea.

Alongside this ran a 'Where in the

World?' picture quiz that had pupils trying to identify countries from important landmarks.

Pupils learned some idiomatic expressions from Montenegro and Romania, watched photo presentations from USA and Georgia, tried their hand at pronouncing the longest town name in Wales, tested their German language skills, danced to Nigerian music and had fun kicking the Chinese feather Jianzi.

Organiser and international students officer Nicola Selby, said: "This was a wonderful afternoon. Huge thanks must go to all the pupils who held stalls; they certainly got into the spirit of the event. Another big thank you goes to all our visiting pupils for helping make it a success."



Nigeria's Stefan Mohammed, Ugo Ekwueme and Kike Olu Ibukun

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Firm warns of growing rural areas crime wave

LEADING rural insurer NFU Mutual has warned that Britain's countryside is in the grip of a rural crime wave, as latest figures reveal a sharp rise in the cost of rural thefts.

The steepest rises regionally in the cost of theft claims were in Wales, the Midlands and South East England.

Initial estimates from the insurer show theft cost the UK's rural homes, businesses and farms a staggering £44.5m in 2017, the highest level in four years.

Analysis of NFU Mutual's claim statistics, the insurer of almost three quarters of the UK's farms and thousands of rural businesses and homes, reveals 2017 saw an increase of 13.4 per cent – the highest year on year percentage rise since 2010.

Every year, NFU Mutual publishes a detailed report on rural crime trends in August which provides detailed analysis including county statistics and information on changing patterns of theft. This year, widespread concern in rural communities has led NFU Mutual to issue an early warning to farmers and country dwellers to increase security.

"NFU Mutual's close links to farmers and country people through our 300 local branch offices have revealed widespread concern that more criminals are targeting the countryside and they are going for richer pickings," said Tim Price, NFU Mutual rural affairs specialist.

"From the South East of England to the North of Scotland we're seeing brazen criminals stealing cars, 4 x 4s, tractors, quad bikes and tools. We're especially concerned that criminals are becoming more sophisticated and are overcoming electronic security to steal expensive vehicles of all types."

Special teams to tackle county's road potholes

By Dominic Robertson

SPECIAL lorries are being sent out to tackle Shropshire's potholes, as a councillor said he was determined to fix roads – having "never known things to be so bad".

Two special lorries are now being used in an effort to repair the damage done to the county's roads over the winter.

The council said its new highways contractor Kier is working "flat-out" to clear the backlog of potholes.

To make headway in its effort the company currently has 35 teams treating and repairing potholes across the county – supported by eight traffic management teams, who control traffic while work is carried out.

Steve Davenport, Shropshire Council's cabinet member for highways and transport, expressed his frustration at the state of the roads and said the authority is determined to bring them up to scratch.

He said: "Believe it or not, I hate potholes as much as anyone and share people's anger and frustration.

"I've never known things to be so bad, and many of our roads have been in a terrible state over the past few months following the severe winter weather.

"But we're determined to sort things as soon as we can and, working with Kier, we're working flat out to treat the exceptionally high number of potholes that have appeared this year.

"Kier have high numbers of people out across the county every day, repairing hundreds of potholes."

Special birthday celebration for Renee



Renee Morgan celebrated her 100th birthday with family and friends

IF you ever went to the community hospital in Forden, you may well remember Renee Morgan.

Renee, or Irene, worked at the village hospital and her family says, touched many people's lives.

Mrs Morgan celebrated her 100th birthday last week with a large gathering of family and friends at The Hermitage residential home where she has lived since February.

The very special birthday party included a magician and a sing song of old favourites.

Mrs Morgan has lived in Montgomeryshire all her life having been raised in Forden.

She has three children and many grandchildren and great grandchildren.

Her daughter Jean paid tribute to her mother, and said how much she enjoyed her celebration.

She said: "Everyone will know her from working at the hospital in Forden, she touched so many people's lives.

"She has three children, and a number of grandchildren and great grandchildren. Still today she is doing very well, she has been here since February and really enjoys it here. Having a card from the Queen was a really nice moment for her."

NEWS IN BRIEF

Club is All In to help out children

A SPECIAL club for children and young people with additional needs has been launched in Oswestry.

The TNS All In project is run at The Venue, home of the New Saints Football Club, at Park Hall on Friday evenings.

Run by multi-sport coaches and specialist support workers the club has alternate Friday nights TNS All In for 10 to 18 years olds and TNS All In Juniors for four to nine year olds.

Naomi Stocker for TNS said: "TNS All In welcomes new members to the friendly, fun group that has a great range of changing activities such as bowling, laser, sports, games and other activities."

The cost for four to 18 year olds is £3.50 a session and more information is available from The Venue.

Special tribute to Sir Stanley

ONE of Britain's most beloved footballers will be remembered at an upcoming event.

Sir Stanley Matthews was born in 1915 in Stoke on Trent and spent 18 years playing for his boyhood club Stoke City.

A Football Special is being held on June 10 in Oswestry's Cambrian Railway Station which will include a host of memorabilia on show, including one of the player's England caps.

Matthews had links to Oswestry as he played alongside former Oswestry Town manager George Antonio Rowlands, who went on to manage Berriew in Mid Wales. The cap on show will be presented by Charles Roberts from Knockin who was a personal friend of the player and was given the cap as a token of their friendship.

For more information about the event email footballspecial@yahoo.co.uk or call 07722 439384.

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Rail firm in help warning

A TRAIN operator has warned people helping others onto trains not to get into the carriages after a host of people made unexpected journeys.

Signs have popped up in Newtown Railway Station on the Cambrian Rail Line, warning passengers not to board trains to help others with their luggage.

It comes after people helping others have got stuck on trains and headed to Welshpool as the doors closed before they could get off.

The note at the station said: "Trains are not scheduled to wait here and the doors will close promptly at departure time."

Ramble group to meet up again

THE next Welshpool Ramblers walk will take place on Sunday when Mel and Linda Lyons lead an easy five-mile walk in the Guilsfield area.

Part of the walk will be around the Gaer-fawr woodland where the bluebells are flowering.

People should meet at 9am in the car park beside the Welshpool Tourist Information Centre (OS grid ref. SJ 226 075), from where transport may be available, or at the start of the walk at the Derwen Garden Centre, Guilsfield, (OS grid ref. SJ 220 107) ready for a 9.15am start.

Following the walk, lunch will be available at the Derwen Centre for those who have given prior notice to the walk leaders.

For more details about the event people can call (01938) 553834 or 07752 568962.

Councillor responds to inaccurate trip claims

Report by Jonny Drury

A COUNCILLOR has hit back at claims taxpayers' money was used to fund a poverty fact-finding mission in Belfast.

Powys County Council staff from the social services department along with anti-poverty champion Councillor Joy Jones went on a trip to The Shankill Road Project.

However an unknown councillor had criticised the cash-strapped council using funds for the trips. The councillor also hit out at Councillor Jones, who voted against a council tax hike earlier this year due to the problems it will cause people on low wages.

However the claims were based on incorrect information and no money came from the children's services budget and the trip was sanctioned by the regional partnership board and the Welsh Government.

Councillor Jones said: "I am disappointed that any fellow councillor has questioned this trip when it has cost the council nothing and its sole purpose was to look at ways to improve the life's of young people who are disadvantaged. I was invited to attend the trip as it is important that we look at other ways councils work to support their communities. No money came from children's services and the trip was fully sanctioned by the Regional Partnership board and Welsh Government."

Council leader Rosemarie Harries also rubbished the claims.

Fake officers slow down motorists



One of the mannequins which was spotted on the A458 road

DRIVERS were quick to put the brakes on when they saw what they thought were two policemen standing under a sign on a main road.

But the "officers" at the side of the road turned out to be mannequins dressed in a police style uniform.

The fake speed police officers appeared on the A458 road which runs between Welshpool and Berriew.

People living in the area have been calling for a 50mph speed limit on the road over worries about safety.

However those behind the installation of the dummies remain a mystery.

One of drivers who saw them and snapped a photo was Montgomeryshire MP Glyn Davies, who said they had a marked effect on the driving of motorists on the road.

He said: "They were very realistic and effective too."

Mr Davies added: "Everyone slowed down."

Welshpool Town Council has backed calls for a speed restriction but would not comment on the mannequins.

Children's services are 'now near crisis point'

CHILDREN'S services in Wales are almost at crisis point according to the body that represents them.

New figures show that there has been a 149 per cent increase in the number of court applications to remove children into care in the last nine years.

The Welsh Local Government Association says councils face a rising caseload with cuts in budgets, and the Welsh Government has recognised the pressure on councils, and has taken action to support families.

A "Section 31" court application is made by a council if it wants to take children into care because it has evidence of harm or likelihood of harm to the child.

Figures from the Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service show the annual number of applications rose from 422 in 2008 to 2009 to 1,050 in 2017 to 2018.

Councillor Geraint Hopkins, deputy spokesperson for children at the WLGA, said: "The system is very near at crisis point."

"Unless we significantly look at the resources available to children's services in Wales and the important early intervention methods that we take to try and prevent children coming into care then we're going to be in serious trouble."

"It's been a difficult period over these last 10 years, austerity has hit many local authorities and whilst we have continued to meet the rising costs of looked after children, it's getting to the point now where we're really at crisis level."

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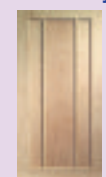
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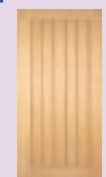
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Garden club to hear from nurseryman

TREFONEN Garden Club's next meeting will be on Thursday next week.

The meeting will hear from Gordon Malt, a Royal Botanic Gardens, Edinburgh-trained tree surgeon and a finalist in the Daily Mail National Garden Contest.

Mr Malt is a nurseryman with more than 40 years in horticulture.

He will be talking on climbing and wall plants, including support systems, pruning and information on a wide variety of different species available.

Not far away is the annual plant sale on June 2, starting at 10am, which promises to be one of the best.

And on the horizon is the outing to Wollerton Old Hall Gardens on Tuesday, July 10, leaving Trefonen at 11.15am and other pick up points along the way.

The cost including admission, head gardener's guided tour and driver's gratuity is £20.

Teaching quality recognised

A SECONDARY school's history department has been credited with an award and has become a gold member of the Historical Association Quality Mark.

The mark is an award that recognises the excellence of history provision in a school.

It has been presented to the history department at the Marches School in Oswestry.

It provides a framework for success in which to develop outstanding provision and in winning the award the Marches School has become one of only eight schools to have won the gold award around the globe and one of only two state schools.

Headteacher Alison Pearson said: "We are delighted to win this award and one that reflects the hard work and dedication that the staff in the department have here."

History teacher Louise Evans added: "As a department, we are delighted to have been credited with this award."

"It's not an easy award to win, as shown with how few schools have received the Gold Quality Mark."



The quality of the teaching of history at the Marches School has been recognised through the awarding of a prize

Demonstration is given to club

THE Oswestry and Borders Flower Club enjoyed a demonstration of continental style flower arranging recently by Lienneke van der Veen.

The next meeting will be held at Morda Village Hall on Tuesday next week at 7.30pm when Helen Raymond Clarke from Albrighton will be the demonstrator. Member Eleanor Davies said the club welcomed visitors and new members all year round.

Table top sale will raise funds

A TABLE top sale and coffee morning will be held in the Corn Exchange in Welshpool on Saturday between 9am and 1pm.

Anyone wishing to book a table should call 07782 166342.

Tea, coffee and cakes will be available.

The event is part of the fundraising for Welshpool 1940s weekend.

Officer welcomes progress on crime

By Dominic Robertson

ONE of Shropshire's top police chiefs has welcomed progress in reducing recorded crime and said the force is focused on cutting drug related offences.

It comes after official national crime statistics showed there had been a nine per cent increase in the number of crimes recorded by West Mercia Police, which covers Shropshire, for 2017.

The figures also showed a 13 per cent rise in violent offences – although part of the increase is due to a change in the classification of the offence, which now includes stalking and death by dangerous driving.

Assistant Chief Constable Martin Evans said that a focus on cutting burglaries had worked.

He added that the force needed the public to be confident in reporting crime, even if it leads to an increase in the figures.

He said: "It should be re-assuring for our communities across West Mercia that our work to reduce the rate of recorded crime, especially compared to most other police forces, has been largely successful."

"Local policing teams have been working especially hard targeting offences such as burglary and this targeted approach has seen very positive results."

"Although West Mercia Police has bucked the national trend in several areas of recorded crime we do know that there is still much more work to be done and I am confident that we can build on the achievements of the last year in reducing offences in other areas such as drug related crime and violence."

"It is crucial that the public have confidence both in us and in reporting



Assistant Chief Constable Martin Evans says there is more work to be done

crimes and while this can lead to an increase in recorded crime numbers, it is important that victims feel they can come forward. We are not complacent about any rises in crime and we will continue to do everything we can to reduce and tackle crime and those responsible."

The figures showed that West Mercia Police recorded a total of 85,790 crimes in the year ending 2017. The

figures exclude fraud offences. There were 28,758 offences of violence against a person recorded in the 12 months.

There were 16 recorded murders in West Mercia and 10,518 instances of offences of violence with injury.

There was a large rise in the number of recorded sexual offences, with a 21 per cent increase. There were a total of 3,590 offences recorded.

Nurses group to have reunion

A GROUP of nurses and former nursing staff will hold their annual reunion dinner at a college which was founded by pioneering nurse Dame Agnes Hunt back in 1927.

The League of Oswestry Nurses will be holding their annual reunion dinner at Derwen College, in Gobowen, near Oswestry, on Saturday.

The group's 53rd annual event will be held in The Orangery Restaurant at the further education college for

young adults with learning difficulties and disabilities. It is the first time that the league have met at the college's historic restaurant.

The venue is particularly fitting as Derwen College's founder was herself a forward-thinking nurse. Dame Agnes Hunt was an orthopaedic nurse who set up Derwen College 91 years ago with the aim of bringing increased independence and work skills to people with disabilities.

With the help of top surgeon Robert

Jones, she also formed what is now the Robert Jones and Agnes Hunt Orthopaedic Hospital, one of the most highly regarded centres of its kind in the country. The League of Oswestry Nurses was formed from nurses who trained at this world-renowned facility. Its original membership was around 100 former students, with the first annual reunion held on June 26, 1964. Membership was extended to include nurses working at the hospital who had trained elsewhere.

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Team spreads BID message to companies

Oswestry & Border Chronicle Thursday, May 10, 2018

OSWESTRY'S Business Improvement District (BID) will aim to support all those within the area, including companies on the industrial estate.

The Oswestry BID was launched in April following a ballot in which businesses voted to take the project forward.

Since the ballot the BID working group have begun to lay out a framework for active collaborative working with members.

The working group recently met businesses from Maesbury Industrial Estate to present a status update on the BID and look towards on-going collaboration to take the business plan forward.

Working group chair Ian Follington said: "We want to ensure Oswestry BID gets off to the best possible start in working together to achieve the objectives set out.

"We were really encouraged by the response of the industrial estate businesses and believe we have the beginnings of a focussed and purposeful group to support the BID going forward."

It is now looking to meet other businesses across the BID area in the same fashion, to bring together, the working group says, a pragmatic and energetic voice for business right across the area.

Any businesses that would like to be involved, learn more, or be kept up to date, should email: info@oswestry4bid.co.uk

Purse snatch victim gave money away

AN elderly woman who was the victim of a purse theft in an Oswestry supermarket has given money donated in her support to charity.

The 87-year-old, who wishes not to be named, had her purse stolen by two men in Aldi supermarket in Oswald Road in October and two men were arrested for the theft after being apprehended in a nearby supermarket.

A fundraising campaign was set up to support the woman and £4,400 was raised.

She declined to accept the money and instead opted to give the money to two charities, the Midlands Air Ambulance and to Macmillan Cancer Support.

A relative, Martyn Jones insisted that despite being overwhelmed by the support the people of Oswestry and the surrounding area gave to her, she didn't want to accept the money.

He said: "She never took the money, she declined it and half each has gone to the two charities.

"She was so overwhelmed and grateful with the support she had received but did not want to take the money."

A man appeared before Telford Magistrates Court in November and admitted the theft offence of the purse which contained £75.

He was sentenced to 200 hours of unpaid work.

Mr Jones said the lady still gets out and about and goes about her daily business as usual.

Store access plan worries are raised

A CIVIC society has raised concerns about pedestrian and public transport access to a new supermarket site in a letter to developers.

Morrisons has announced it has drawn up a blueprint to build a new supermarket, petrol station and garden centre on Shrewsbury Road in Oswestry.

The store is now engaging with residents before it submits a planning application to Shropshire Council.

Oswestry and District Civic Society has sent a document to supermarket bosses and said although it does not object to the application in principle, it had concerns about access.

It called for a travel plan to be drawn up, and walking, cycling and public transport links to be developed in the area.

It also wants the building to have a positive contribution to the town, and at the moment, it believes the design does not.

David Ward, of the society said: "The building will be there for many years, and should make a positive contribution to the townscape. The layout proposed would not achieve that."

Illegal money lending group works with police to raise awareness of loan sharks

Report by Jonny Drury

AN organisation has been working with West Mercia Police to raise awareness of loan sharks in Shropshire.

Officers from the England Illegal Money Lending Team and Oswestry Safer Neighbourhood Team took part in a targeted leaflet drop in Gobowen, Oswestry, St Martins and surrounding villages.

Loan shark information was posted through letterboxes.

It was also put on beer mats in local pubs, giving people advice on how to report incidents.

Other work included police and debt advocates being trained on how to spot illegal money lending in the community.

They were also trained on how to support residents who may be in the grip of a loan shark.

Katie Le'Clere, police officer with West Mercia's Oswestry rural north team, said: "We are pleased to have joined forces with the Illegal Money Lending Team to raise awareness of the issues surrounding loan sharking and associated crime

"Loan sharks ruin lives and we want residents to know that support is there for people who need help to break free from these unscrupulous lenders.

"We would always urge loan shark victims to seek help by contacting the Illegal Money Lending Team 24 hour helpline."

The illegal money lending team mascot,

'Glenda the Lender' travelled around Oswestry to warn members of the community about the perils of using illegal money lenders.

Loan sharks are people who lend money without authorisation from the financial conduct authority.

They often target low income and desperate families.

Households

Figures have shown that 310,000 households are using illegal money lenders, who charged them high rate of interests.

Tony Quigley, head of the Illegal Money Lending Team, said: "Illegal money lending is a despicable crime which causes nothing but harm to our communities.

"These illegal lenders may appear to be offering a community service but borrowers are often forced to pay back far and above what they have borrowed and can afford.

"Many are subjected to threats, violence or other callous enforcement methods."

Groups in the county are also being urged to bid for money that has been seized from loan sharks.

The illegal money lending team are inviting bids of up to £5,000 to be used on projects that relate to raising awareness of loan sharks.

For more information about this funding scheme and to receive an electronic application form, people can contact Dave Benbow on David.A.Benbow@birmingham.gov.uk

The closing date for applications is June 30.

Concerns over children's service report are raised

Report by Jonny Drury

ALLEGATIONS have been made regarding an internal report by a county council into its under fire children's services.

Last year a report into Powys County Council's children's services found how the service was putting children at serious risk of harm.

Just as it seemed the service was turning a corner after an action plan was put in place, a letter from a former cabinet member to leader Councillor Rosemarie Harris has revealed that a report carried out internally by the council, prior to the official CSSIW investigation revealed concerns about the service, however allegedly no action was taken.

In the letter, Councillor Liam Fitzpatrick said he felt the authority had not been "open and transparent".

In the letter to the leader he said: "I am personally deeply concerned regarding the 'people 2' report and why no action was taken before the CSSIW investigations some time later to safeguard our children in the county.

Prosecuted

"I do believe that the people concerned should be held to account and if necessary prosecuted.

"I am also now extremely concerned regarding your reluctance to investigate this matter, which would, I believe restore confidence not only in children's services but in the council as a whole."

In response, the council leader said progress is now being made to safeguard children in Powys.

She said: "The council took quick and decisive action in response to recommendations set out in the Care Inspectorate Wales inspection.

"Working with Welsh Government we established an Improvement Board which includes highly experienced and independent members to drive our improvement agenda.

"We have produced a robust action plan, which has been approved by inspectors and the Welsh Government, and are committed to a programme of improvement.

"Our goal is to move children's services to a position of real strength and exemplary performance.

"A great deal of progress has already been made but we know more is needed and are realistic about the challenge ahead. Our priority is the future not the past, to deliver improvements and restore confidence in our services."

Rotary club members ready for zip challenge



Denise Goode with husband Arthur surrounded by fellow members of the Oswestry Cambrian Rotary Club

SIX members of a rotary club will be going downhill at 40 miles per hour on a zip wire later this year.

The 'Cambrian Six' from the Oswestry Cambrian Rotary Club will take on the challenge from 72 feet above ground in North Wales to

raise money for research for the Motor Neurone Disease Association.

The is because member Denise Goode is a sufferer of the illness.

Oswestry Cambrian Rotary Club secretary and one of the flyers Cath Baldry said: "I am

terrified of heights, so I must be mad. But if I can be as brave as Denise, then I can do it."

To donate to the cause, people can go to justgiving.com/fundraising/Cath-Baldry.

For more details about the rotary club contact (01691) 650854.

New rule could force release of salmon caught in rivers

NEW fishing bye laws have been proposed which will make it mandatory for people to release all salmon caught in Welsh rivers.

The procedures for introducing new bye laws are protracted and Natural Resources Wales wishes to avoid uncertainty for fishermen by delaying implementation of approved new measures until the 2019 fishing season.

The proposed all-Wales bye laws, which include restrictions on fishing methods to help the survival of released fish and reduced net fishing seasons, are currently being considered

by the Welsh Government. Dave Mee, senior fisheries advisor for NRW, said: "At the moment timescales for a decision are uncertain, so we are proposing that introduction of any new measures should be postponed until the beginning of the 2019 rod and net seasons.

"We hope this will help clarify the situation for anglers, netsmen, fishery owners and clubs and associations."

Welsh salmon stocks remain in a perilous condition. Although the mandatory catch and release proposals have proved unpopular with

anglers, NRW firmly believes that they, along with other measures such as tackling agricultural pollution, improving water quality and managing the potential threats from predators, are vital for the future survival of these iconic fish.

This season, fishermen are again being asked by NRW to practise full restraint and ensure conservation of fish stocks by voluntarily releasing all the salmon they catch in 2018.

Mr Mee explained: "Our salmon stocks are in serious trouble and have fallen to historically

low levels and the same is true of about half of our sea trout stocks.

"Neither species can sustain uncontrolled killing of fish and so we are again asking all anglers to release all of their salmon.

"Most anglers are already voluntarily releasing the fish they catch, but some are not.

"We feel the situation is now so serious for salmon that we must ask all anglers to help preserve as many fish as possible by returning all their salmon. It's also very important to take great care of returned fish."

Flats tragedy will have impact on building safety

CHANGES will be made to make buildings safer in Shropshire following the Grenfell tower block tragedy, say senior officers from Shropshire Fire and Rescue Service

Fire officers are expected to be given more powers to question new developments and planned alterations to buildings when Dame Judith Hackitt reveals the results of her review of building

Report by Lucy Todman

regulations later this month following the Grenfell high rise flats tragedy.

A total of 71 people died when the 24-storey block was destroyed by fire in June.

Deputy Chief Fire Officer Andy Johnson and Station Manager Ian Leigh, from Shrewsbury fire HQ, attended the national conference of the National Fire Chiefs Council in Oxford where Dame Hackitt was the keynote speaker.

Station Manager Leigh said: "We don't

have a Shard in Shropshire and we are not festooned with high rise buildings. But that is not to say that the Hackitt report will not affect us in our county."

He added that they attended the conference to get a better understanding of how new legislation may affect the county and the fire service.

The fire officer said: "Throughout Shropshire we are seeing ever more new developments both domestic and commercial. We have to look at how we manage fire safety now and in the future."



The Grenfell tragedy will impact on fire safety regulations in Shropshire, firefighters say

Mayor tells of his town's bright future

A MAYOR has praised the young people of his town for their commitment and civic pride.

Councillor Vince Hunt said Oswestry has some tremendous young ambassadors and says the town has a bright future with such talent.



Mayor Vince Hunt

The mayor was speaking at Oswestry's annual civic dinner held at the Wynnstay Hotel.

Guests included North Shropshire MP Owen Paterson, wearing a neck brace and not yet fully back to his duties in Westminster following the riding accident in which he broke his back.

Councillor Hunt said it had been a busy and challenging year for the council.

"We continue to punch above our weight and make sure the voice of Oswestry is heard," he said.

"In terms of the economy we have facilitated the process that has brought about the Business Improvement District for Oswestry. This will bring in £1.4 million over the next five years and will present many challenges and opportunities.

"We are organising an Oswestry Balloon Carnival in August, are negotiating for new Christmas lights and for the first time Oswestry is in the National Britain in Bloom final. My own personal agenda is working with young people and I have been into schools to talk with them about what is important to them and what they feel about the town in which they live.

"We have some committed, talented and civic passionate young people in our town with a real interest in Oswestry both present and future." The mayor said he was proud of his own daughter, Amber, who at the age of 15, had agreed to be his mayoress.

Home schooling trend is growing

THE number of children being home-schooled in Shropshire has risen over the past three years, new figures show.

In Shropshire, 366 children are being home-schooled, which has risen from 359 last year and 263 in 2014/15.

In Telford and Wrekin, 280 children are being home-educated, which has increased from 150 three years ago.

There is no legal obligation for children to attend school but the law says they must receive an education.

They can be taught by parents or private tutors and the guidance from both

the English and Welsh education departments is that it must be a "suitable education".

Shropshire Council said parents home-schooling their children are offered a visit at least once a year but do not have to accept this. Parents can choose to send in a written report rather than meet with a representative from the local authority, but contact is more frequent where there are concerns that a suitable education is not being provided.

Home-schooled children are not required to follow a particular curriculum or timetable.

Business wins award

A PLANNING and design consultancy business has won a top building award.

Hughes Architects, which has offices in Mid Wales and Shropshire, won the Local Authority Building Control Cymru Building Excellence Award for Best Partnership.

The award recognises the work Hughes Architects undertakes working with Powys County Council.

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16Cash backing will support road schemes

Oswestry & Border Chronicle Thursday, May 10, 2018

MORE than £1 million in grant money will help transport schemes across Powys.

The funding, announced by the Welsh Government, has been allocated to Powys County Council through the Local Transport Network Fund.

Some £450,000 is from Safe Routes in Communities, £322,229 from the Local Transport Fund and £175,000 is a Road Safety Grant.

The money will be used to improve public transport interchange facilities in Llandrindod Wells, Machynlleth and Welshpool.

The Local Transport Fund will allow the council to design active travel schemes for Crickhowell and Llangattock, Knighton, Llandrindod Wells, Newtown, Presteigne and Welshpool.

The Road Safety Grant will allow the council to continue to provide its road safety initiatives to make the roads in Powys safer for all users.

Councillor Phyl Davies, cabinet member for highways, said: "I'm delighted that the Welsh Government has award this funding, which residents and businesses will benefit from.

"The funding is a substantial investment and will improve road safety, enhance public transport and provide more and better routes that will enable people to walk and cycle safely."

Fitness is the focus of free village session

SHROPSHIRE Rural Communities Charity is holding a physical activity taster session later this month in a village near Oswestry.

The taster session will take place in Whittington Seniors Club on May 25.

The session will run from 10.30am to 12.30pm.

A light lunch will also be included.

Susie Hancock, development officer for the Wise and Well Team at Shropshire Rural Communities Charity, said: "These sessions promise to be good fun and are specifically for beginners.

"We are not here to recruit elite athletes. "We just want people to have the opportunity to give gentle exercise a try and see where it leads them."

The free taster is offering people the opportunity to try a 30-minute class in armchair aerobics and a 30-minute class in pilates.

Lisa Darkin from Shropshire Rural Communities Charity's Wise and Well Team added: "Everybody needs to keep active and these free sessions are a good place to start.

"We want to help people to find a level of exercise that suits them."

Research has shown activity can reduce the risk of heart disease and a stroke by 35 per cent.

The communities charity has been supporting people in Shropshire, Telford & Wrekin for more than 55 years.

For more details call (01743) 342162.

Physiotherapist to take on paraglide

A PHYSIOTHERAPIST at Oswestry Orthopaedic Hospital is taking part in a tandem paraglide to raise money for The Midland Centre for Spinal Injuries (MCSI). Ruth Burton, who works on MCSI at the hospital, will be collecting funds for the Spinal Injuries Activities Fund.

The Activities Fund allows the therapies team to extend spinal injury patients' rehabilitation by accompanying them out in the community before they are discharged. It gives patients invaluable opportunities to negotiate unexpected obstacles and solve situations with the guidance and help of staff. Ruth said: "I am absolutely terrified of this tandem paraglide but I have been inspired to do something that scares me by our patients. They face overwhelming challenges every day, so I'm sure I can do this one. I've wanted to raise recreation money for MCSI for a long time as our patients deserve the best opportunities for rehabilitation and the activities fund allows us to do that."

People can donate to Ruth's paraglide at giving.com/fundraising/ruth-burton-paraglide.

Investment of £6.5 million will be made to improve adult services following criticism

Report by Jonny Drury

A LOCAL authority has pledged to invest £6.5 million over the next year after inspectors found its adult services need improvements.

Care Inspectorate Wales carried out an inspection at Powys County Council in January which came after concerns were raised by users, the public, politicians and issues highlighted in the damning report into children's services last year.

The latest inspection found some people received good care and support but this was not consistent.

Other findings in the report found that some people faced significant delays in being assessed for care and support and in receiving a service and significant improvement is required.

An improvement plan has been drawn up and

the inspectorate will continue to monitor both children and adult services.

Chief inspector Gillian Baranski said: "Although our inspection has identified significant areas for improvement, the local authority has taken positive steps to improve and stabilise the service, including the appointment of a permanent director of social services.

"With the support of the Improvement and Assurance Board we expect to see swift improvement across social services to ensure positive outcomes for people with care and support needs, their families and carers in Powys.

"We will continue to monitor progress in

implementing Powys's improvement plans for both children's and now adult services."

The report also found there was an unacceptable backlog of safeguarding work at screening and enquiry stages.

However positives included urgent safeguarding referrals were dealt with swiftly and staff showed commitment and professionalism while copying with changes and depleted resources.

Co-operation between frontline health and social care staff and a range of voluntary sector and community groups was also praised by inspectors.

Now £6.5 million will be invested over the next 12 months and Powys County Council leader Rosemarie Harris added: "We have had

in place for some time a comprehensive improvement plan for adult services and provided significant resources to help make the necessary changes.

"This has been acknowledged by the inspectors.

"We recognise that there are improvements to be made and we are confident the work is well under way.

"We have just put in place an Improvement and Assurance Board with increased support from Welsh Government and the Welsh Local Government Association.

"This will perform an independent role, monitoring our progress in delivering reform and also providing new ideas about how to sustain the positive changes being made."

Worries over 'inhumane' impact of court changes

Report by Dominic Robertson

PEOPLE are being subjected to "inhumane and degrading" conditions after remand hearings were moved out of Shropshire, according to a solicitor.

Stephen Scully, a solicitor with Lanyon Bowdler and a member of Shropshire Advocates Group, has said that lawyers are concerned at the impact of stopping remand hearings in Shropshire, and moving them to Kidderminster.

He said that some people surrendering or arrested for a breach of bail, are now being held in police cells for 24 hours awaiting a hearing, due to there only being one bus a day taking defendants to Kidderminster Magistrates Court.

Under the previous system those surrendering or arrested for a breach of bail would have been taken to Telford Magistrates Court for a hearing the same day.

Mr Scully said the situation was tying up police resources.

Cells

The solicitor said that it has also meant more people occupying the cells in Kidderminster, potentially creating a safety risk, and an increased cost for the tax payer for travel warrants, which defendants use to pay for their return from Kidderminster.

Mr Scully said the situation was putting people in "inhumane and degrading" conditions.

He said: "They are doubling up on people in cells trying to fit people in and we are very concerned something is going to happen, if people are cramped up there and locked up for 24 hours plus. It is a potential powder keg."

He added: "Most of the people who are sent to Kidderminster are then being released on bail and our understanding is the tax-payer then has to pay for them to come back on a travel warrant. That is three to four times what it would cost in Shropshire."

Mr Scully said he had heard of an anecdotal report from a colleague about a woman arrested after the school run on a breach of bail conditions.

He said the woman was then held in a county police cell overnight until a hearing at Kidderminster the next day, leading to her spending a considerable amount of time trying to arrange childcare and the collection of her children.

He also said there had been reports of police officers having time taken up by having to drive documents to Kidderminster for cases.

British music celebrated at festival in village



World class musicians from six different countries will take part in Whittington Music Festival this year

THE village of Whittington near Oswestry is marking the week of the royal wedding with six concerts of British music.

With a festival programme originally inspired by the centenary of the 1918 Armistice, the vast range of music by 15 different UK composers makes an apt contribution to the general celebrations.

But like the wedding itself, there is a significant international flavour to the week-long

event. The 15 world class musicians come from six different countries to perform the six concerts running daily from Tuesday to Sunday next week.

"Fantasia on a British theme" has attracted artists from Belgium, France, Russia, Poland, Spain and the UK, several of them principals of leading orchestras, and all of them respected soloists. Some of them have taken part in the five previous Whittington Music Festivals,

and look forward to returning to an area and an audience they specially enjoy. Others, like virtuoso Belgian violinist Liesbeth Baelus, are coming to Whittington for the first time.

The festival's six concerts are free to anyone aged eight to 25 who rings (01691) 657986. Tickets are £15 and are available from Rowan Thorn in Oswestry or direct from the festival website whittingtonmusicfestival.org.uk, where there are full details of the programme.

Neurology treatment could be in line for a boost

A MAJOR neurology hospital in Liverpool could send its staff to Shropshire to provide three clinics a week in the north of the county, a new report has revealed.

Shropshire's neurology service had to temporarily close to new referrals last year, with health bosses saying they were unable to manage demand due to staffing difficulties.

Shrewsbury and Telford Hospital NHS Trust (SaTH) has been involved in talks with the Walton Centre in the hopes it can offer an outreach service in the county.

A report to SaTH's board said the Walton Centre has confirmed it is prepared to sign an agreement to offer three clinics per week, 42 weeks out of the year, as a minimum.

However, the report says the centre has advised it cannot commit to six clinics a week in the second year due to staffing levels.

In a report, Carol McInnes, assistant chief operating officer for unscheduled care at SaTH, said: "The Walton Centre have also advised they would only want to deliver activity in the north of the county eg, Oswestry

or Whitchurch. The Walton would also like all activity undertaken at Robert Jones and Agnes Hunt Orthopaedic Hospital (RJA) to fall under one contract, a meeting is scheduled with RJA and commissioners, to understand how to progress this and any implications this may have on contract values.

"As the capacity offer from the Walton Centre covers a quarter of that required by SaTH, and only in the north of the county, discussions are being commenced with University Hospitals Birmingham NHS Foundation Trust and

University Hospitals of North Midlands NHS Trust to understand any support they may now be able to offer."

Simon Wright, chief executive of SaTH, said the trust was looking to partner with a number of organisations to provide the right level of cover.

He said he was keen to "lock-down" an agreement with the Walton Centre.

Neurology services treat conditions affecting the nervous system, including the brain, spinal cord, nerve, muscles and their connections.

The new magazine for Shropshire



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YOUR VOICE.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Issue 11...



NEWS

SEEING SHROPSHIRE FROM A DIFFERENT VIEWPOINT

Meet the man who has scaled walls and climbed inside buildings to explore the hidden side of county life.

OUTDOORS

Dave Edwards talks about his history of play-off encounters as Shrewsbury Town aim for a place at Wembley.

EVENTS

Lucy Porter on why she was carried onstage by an Oswestry man, and how she went wild swimming near Ludlow.

FOOD

The country's finest cheeses selected by an expert ahead of this weekend's Ludlow Spring Festival.



REVIEWS

The best places to eat, the picks of what's on television, films heading to Shropshire cinemas, and another great day out come under the microscope.

PLUS - LOCAL NEWS | MAGIC UNIVERSITY | LOCAL LEGENDS DAN NIGHTINGALE | PUZZLES BREAST CANCER | BANKS BALLOONING WITH BRANSON

ON SALE FRIDAY

Hedge map headache for farmers

SHROPSHIRE farmers are being urged not to delay making their Basic Payment Scheme (BPS) application this year as a change to the mapping procedure is prolonging the application process.

Sarah Reece, a partner and chartered surveyor with Berrys at Shrewsbury, says some arable farm applications are taking twice as long to complete this year compared to 2017.

“The Rural Payments Agency (RPA) has added a new ‘hedge layer’ to the mapping system to show the length and location of hedges on the farm and in many cases we are finding inaccuracies,” said Sarah. “Many arable farmers are using hedges as part of their Ecological Focus Area or Countryside Stewardship so these hedge maps must be checked for accuracy. This means farmers or their agents have to print off a map, make the corrections and then send off the mapping changes on paper form RLE1 to the RPA as part of the BPS application process. All this takes additional time for the farmer and additional time for their agent. Most applications using hedges for EFAs are taking twice as long as we have to go through all the hedgerow data with the farmer to cross check what the RPA has mapped before we can process the application putting on the cropping and the greening.” For a small arable farm this could mean the BPS application bill rising from, for example £400 to £600. Larger arable units with more hedges and inaccurate data to process could see costs rise even further.

Animal group gets ready for a celebration

RSPCA Cymru is getting ready to celebrate 10 years of its Community Animal Welfare Footprint awards scheme.

Since 2008, a total of 124 CAWF Cymru awards have recognised the commitment and achievement of local authorities, contingency planners and housing providers across Wales in improving and delivering animal welfare.

The scheme is split into a number of categories with entrants from Wales gaining recognition for their stray dog provision, animal activity licensing work, contingency planning and housing policies.

There are bronze, silver and gold standards in each.

There is also a special RSPCA innovator award each year, which rewards pioneering and imaginative steps taken to improve animal welfare.

The organisation is now marking the anniversary with a special innovator of the decade award.

Last year 15 organisations were recognised, winning a total of 18 awards.

Applications can now be made for the CAWF Cymru awards by visiting politicalanimal.org.uk/cawfhome.

Importance of farming in focus

WELSH farmers spelt out the importance of farming to Welsh Assembly members with the launch of NFU Cymru’s We Are Welsh Farming campaign at the Senedd.

The campaign, which champions the variety of ways in which farming benefits people and communities in Wales, has been launched as part of a celebration of Welsh food and farming. A video, starring NFU Cymru members, showcases the roles farmers play in producing the nation’s food, enhancing the environment, preserving Welsh language and culture, boosting the Welsh economy, supporting tourism and educating the next generation.

Farmers are being urged to post examples on social media of the wide variety of work they carry out that underlines the important contribution farmers make to life in Wales under the hashtags #WeAreWelshFarming or #NiYwFfermioCymru.

Staff going extra mile to ensure the best care



Kenyon Ward patient Leonard Turner and staff nurse David Cockburn highlighting the sleep packs

STAFF at Oswestry Orthopaedic Hospital have celebrated the work they’re doing to make continuous improvements to patient care.

Wards and departments have been celebrating the work they’re doing to ensure they are delivering the highest standard of care as part of Experience of Care Week.

A number of initiatives were highlighted during the week.

On Kenyon Ward, staff have developed a welcome leaflet for patients’ arrival to make patients aware of sleep packs which are available to them, to ensure they have a good and comfortable night’s sleep.



Medical secretary Georgi Norris, Phil Bousfield and Nilesh Makwana

Meanwhile, an athlete who had his leg amputated five years ago says it has given him a “fresh perspective on life” as he prepares to embark on his next sporting challenge.

A member of the Welsh national wheelchair rugby team and one of the world’s first wheelchair boxers, Phil Bousfield’s latest goal is to

take part in a 70-mile fundraising bike ride this spring.

Mr Bousfield says his sporting successes wouldn’t have been possible without the care he received at Oswestry Orthopaedic Hospital and in particular from Mr Nilesh Makwana, consultant orthopaedic surgeon, and his team.

Interactive map charts rise and fall of our landscape

Report by Mark Andrews

DO you live in an area that is on the up, or are you experiencing that sinking feeling?

You can now find out thanks to an interactive map which shows how the ground beneath our feet is shifting – or not, as the case may be.

Environmental consultancy firm Geomatic Ventures has produced the first satellite-based radar survey to show which parts of Britain are going up or down with millimetre precision.

Perhaps thankfully, the map, shows that Shropshire, by and large, enjoys a fairly stable landscape.

But there are some areas that have seen rises and falls over the time that the data was gathered between October 2015 and October 2017.

Mid-Wales, though, has seen significant subsidence over that time, with several areas around the Berwyn mountain range showing noticeable falls.

By contrast, an area around Torrin Drive, in Shrewsbury, was shown to have risen considerably over the same period, as did a farmer’s field in Middleton, near Ludlow.

One of the biggest risers is the area around Titterstone Cleve Hill, where parts of the landscape have been growing by about 8mm – or one-third of an inch – each year.

Mining

Parts of the Forge Retail Park in Telford have fallen by several millimetres, the map shows.

The former mining village of Highley shows considerable variety, with parts of it showing small falls, while neighbouring spots have risen by up to a third of an inch per year.

Andy Sowter chief technical officer of Geomatic Ventures, said it was not unusual to see areas of slight uplift or subsidence, particularly in former mining areas.

“Very often, where there’s been an old coal-mining area, when they close the pit the ground swells up,” he says. “It’s caused by groundwater returning to the area.”

But other former coal-mining areas, such as Madeley, show little or now deformation. Part of the former Ironbridge Power Station has also risen, but that could be down to something as simple as a rise in the coal storage heaps, Mr Sowter said.

He said it was difficult to pin down



On the rise – Titterstone Cleve Hill is growing by around a third of an inch a year



Sinking feeling: parts of the Forge Retail Park have sunk



Ups and downs – the former mining village of Highley



Part of the former Ironbridge Power Station site has risen

the precise causes of the changes without knowing more about the area and its background.

But he said changes in relief did not necessarily represent a problem for the areas concerned. The data was compiled by locating two

probes 400 miles above the earth’s surface, which fired radio waves at the ground and measured how long it took them to bounce back.

This was used to produce a “heat map”, which shows how some parts of the country are sinking, while

others are rising. Shropshire and mid-Wales is largely coloured in neutral green, although there are significant areas shaded yellow which indicate minor subsidence.

One of the biggest risers is the village of Willand in Devon, which has

been rising by just over three-quarters of an inch a year, which means it could eventually become the highest peak in the country – if the trend continues for 44,000 years.

The full map can be viewed on the website mangomap.com

Sex extortion victims are urged to come forward

A POLICE force is urging victims of sextortion and online blackmail to come forward and report more incidents.

Dyfed-Powys Police has recorded seven reports of blackmail in the past three weeks, with victims being threatened that intimate photos or videos will be shared online unless they pay in cash or Bitcoin.

In some of these cases, victims have been contacted by strangers on social media and have been asked to share intimate photos or videos of themselves.

They have then received threats that these images will be posted on social media unless they pay a certain amount of money to the blackmailer.

One victim reported being asked to pay £6,000 after initially being contacted through Instagram.

In other instances, victims have received emails from unknown people who claim to have sexual photos or videos of them, and they threatened to share these with friends and family unless they are paid.

In light of recent reports, officers from Dyfed-Powys Police's Digital Communications and Cyber Crime Unit have offered advice to anyone who receives similar threats online.

Detective Sergeant Rob Gravelle said: "The first thing we would urge is don't panic, and don't respond to blackmail threats. Report it to police immediately.

"Don't communicate with the blackmailer further, but take screenshots of any chat history as evidence. Please also take a note of their user IDs, money transfer control numbers

and any photos or video that were sent. If any photos or videos appear on a website or social media account, report these to the site as soon as you can. Ask for the images to be removed and for the perpetrator to be blocked.

"What is really important is for victims to feel empowered to report sextortion and blackmail without feeling ashamed or embarrassed. You are not alone, and it is very likely that other people will have been targeted by these criminals.

"Your call will be treated sensitively."

Wood company helps school with IT needs

A PRIMARY school has become the first in the region to have a suite of laptops for its older pupils.

Chirk's Ysgol Y Waun was chosen to lead a pilot scheme in the Wrexham county borough.

Eventually similar schemes could be rolled out across Wales.

The IT suite has been created thanks to support from Chirk-based wood panel manufacturer Kronospan which has helped the school to buy 30 new Chromebook laptops for pupils in years seven to 11.

Headteacher John Roberts approached Kronospan for financial assistance.

He said: "We are the first school in Wrexham to establish a suite of Chromebooks and they have been a great success.

"Taking the lead in an IT project is expensive but this is an important development for Chirk children."

The school headteacher added: "So we are very grateful to Kronospan for making this fantastic project possible – its generosity has benefited the children in creative and innovative ways."

Kronospan chairman Mike McKenna said: "We are delighted to help with such a fantastic project at Ysgol Y Waun.

"The IT skills are essential for the future and the children in Chirk are leading the way for other schools in Wales."

New High Sheriff takes up role



Newly appointed High Sheriff of Powys David Price and Elaine Price

A NEW High Sheriff of Powys was sworn in at a ceremony held at the Strand Hall, Builth Wells.

David Price of Noyadd, Llanddewi'r Cwm, took over from the outgoing High Sheriff, Susan Thompson of Kinnerton.

The ceremony was attended by the Lord Lieutenant of Powys Shan Legge-Bourke and the warrant of appointment was read by Judge Richard Twomlow.

The shrieval party also included under sheriff Philip Evans, Powys County Council acting chief executive David Powell, and the Reverend Brian Reardon, chaplain to the newly appointed High Sheriff.

The role of High Sheriff dates back over 1,000 years, and while duties have evolved over time, central elements of supporting the crown and judiciary still remain.

In addition, the High Sheriff actively lends support to the emergency services and the voluntary sector.

Following his appointment the new High Sheriff said: "It is a privilege and honour to be appointed to this historic role, and I look forward to my year in office.

"I hope to meet as many individuals and organisations as possible, and in particular I wish to highlight the extraordinary good work done by the young people of this county. In addition I wish to support efforts to safeguard their health and well-being, and that will include a desire to raise the profile of street pastors.

"There are currently two groups of volunteer street pastors in Powys, in Brecon and Newtown, who working alongside the police offer care and support to young people on late Saturday evenings.

"I hope we can extend that support to the many young people who attend the Royal Welsh Agricultural Show.

"I would also particularly like to support the excellent work of the Bracken Trust."

Ban is issued after hearing told of failures

A COUPLE had their vehicle operator's licence revoked after what traffic commissioners called a "grotesque" failure to abide by its requirements.

A waste disposal vehicle operated by Michael John Philbin and Rachael Philbin of Weston Farm, Oswestry, had no MOT, serious maintenance failures and no tachograph records.

Mr Philbin's restricted goods vehicle operator's licence was revoked in a Traffic Commissioner's hearing and he and Rachael Philbin were disqualified indefinitely from holding or obtaining any type of operator's licence.

At the public inquiry held in Birmingham, traffic commissioner Nicholas Denton was told that Mr Philbin held a restricted goods vehicle operator's licence for three vehicles for MJP Recycling Ltd, with an operating centre at Weston Farm, Oswestry.

The licence was granted in 2005.

Mr Denton said he received reports from DVSA vehicle examiner Dyfrig Williams and traffic examiner Marianne Hyde.

They said one of the vehicles had been given an S-marked prohibition, denoting a serious failure of maintenance, on August 3, 2017, after a tyre blow-out had damaged the rear stop and indicator lights. Yet after changing the tyre he continued to drive the vehicle.

The driver did not possess the necessary C category to drive the vehicle and was not using a tachograph.

Mrs Philbin told the public inquiry that she was responsible for the operation while her husband

Report by Sue Austin

was ill and had not realised that tachographs were needed on 7.5 tonne vehicles.

The traffic commissioner said Mrs Philbin had maintained one vehicle which was used only for private business.

Yet he said Veolia gave evidence that it had collected waste from one of its sites on six occasions in October 2017.

Mr Denton said Mr Philbin had applied to surrender his licence late last year.

"Owing to the serious issues identified by the DVSA's report I decided not to accept the surrender but to call the operator to a public inquiry," he added.

Failed

He said the operator had failed to fulfil its undertakings to keep vehicles fit and serviceable, to retain maintenance records for 15 months, to ensure drivers' hours and tachograph rules were observed and to ensure the lawful operating and driving of vehicles.

"Given the operator's grotesque failure to abide by so many of the requirements relating to the safe and lawful operation of vehicles, revocation of the licence is inevitable," he said.

Mr Philbin was he said free to request a hearing to argue for a time limit on the disqualification.

"I do not envisage that period could be reduced to below five years," he said.

He said Mrs Philbin's untruthfulness and failure to comply with even the most basic requirements of HGV operation make the operator unfit to hold a licence.

Survey asks people to have a say on GP hours changes

A SURVEY has been launched for residents to have their say on changes to GP practices.

Shropshire and Telford & Wrekin Clinical Commissioning groups (CCGs) are asking residents for their views to help plan longer opening hours for GP practices.

The CCGs are preparing plans for all patients to be able to book a regular, routine appointment at a GP practice from 8am to 8pm, Monday to Friday, as well

as weekends and Bank Holidays. These appointments would be with a GP, nurse, or other clinicians, for example a clinical pharmacist.

They may not be at a patient's own practice, but one nearby and will just be for routine or same-day, pre-bookable appointments, not for urgent or emergency appointments. The GP Extended Access Survey is confidential and has 11 multi-choice questions.

The survey also checks how

far people would be prepared to travel to appointments and if they would be interested in using different methods for appointments such as Skype. Dr Stephen James, clinical director for primary care speaking on behalf of both Shropshire CCG and Telford and Wrekin CCG in this joint project, urged people to complete a survey.

To take part in the survey visit <https://tinyurl.com/Extended-Access-Survey>

Officers are thanked for spy poisoning work

POLICE officers in Mid Wales have been praised for their support given in the wake of the poisoning of former spy Sergei Skripel and his daughter in Salisbury

A consort of five Dyfed-Powys Police officers spent 15 days in Salisbury providing support to Wiltshire Police, along with 36 other forces from throughout the UK.

PC Jamie Lang, who is usually stationed at Whitland, PC Nick Rice of ICAT in HQ, PC Becky Butler, of Cardigan, PC Dion Parsons, of Carmarthen and PC Simon Gibbard-Jones, of Ammanford, all put themselves forward to provide mutual aid for Wiltshire Police.

They were responsible for guarding the cordon at the street

where Skripel lived. They dealt with national and international media, provided reassurance to the local community and took the time to get to know the residents.

In response to the officers' kindness the community looked after them. It snowed heavily during their time at Salisbury and residents provided them with hot drinks, cakes and blankets.

PC Jamie Lang said: "The local residents were terrified after the incident. They didn't know what was going on or if they were safe and we were able to help by passing on key information and taking the time to get to know them. We made a difficult time more bearable.

"We did what we would normally do at home. We chatted

to them, made a fuss of the school children who walked past us every day, helped people wherever we could and kept them informed.

"We were only meant to stay for a week but we were asked to stay for another week. The local residents asked for us specifically."

Since returning to their usual duties, chief constable Mark Collins has received a number of thank you letters from Wiltshire residents and the chief constable of Wiltshire Police praising the way they worked with the local community. Mr Collins added: "It fills me with pride to receive thanks for the work Dyfed-Powys officers carried out during their time in Salisbury."

Views asked for on plan's consultation

RESIDENTS, land owners, agents and residents can now give their view on a council's process in producing a newly adopted local development plan.

The Powys County Council plan, which was officially adopted at full council last month, sets out the council's blueprint for the development and use of land in the county until 2026 with the exception of the Brecon Beacons National Park which has its own plan.

A survey which closes at midnight on June 17 seeks people's views on the clarity and usefulness of information provided at each of the stages during the process, the ease by which information could be found and how up to date it was.

Councillor Martin Weale, portfolio holder for regeneration and planning, said: "The Local Development Plan sets out a clear strategy for meeting the future needs of the county's communities over the next decade.

"It has taken a lot of time and hard work to produce such a comprehensive and focused plan and we have had numerous letters, emails and conversations with people, community groups, land owners and businesses during this process.

"These have helped us shape our future landscape and now the plan is in place I feel it's important that we take stock, reflect upon and learn any valuable lessons from this feedback survey."

People can complete the survey online at powys.gov.uk/haveyoursay or they can request and return a paper copy via their local library.

Hospital revamp is in the pipeline

MILLIONS of pounds could potentially be spent to revamp a north Wales hospital.

The Wrexham Maelor Hospital, which services patients from Shropshire and just over the border in Chirk, was the subject of a scrutiny meeting at Wrexham Council recently.

Plans were revealed by Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board's area director Rob Smith, who said the board was in the early stages of planning a revamp of the hospital.

He also revealed the board was looking at political support to get funding, and despite no date being set for the work, it is hoped it would begin within the next five years.

No specific plans were revealed, neither were specific figures.

In the same meeting, Dr Gareth Bowdler admitted the opening of HMP Berwyn had impacted on the hospital, and the Welsh Government had no supplied any extra money to cover costs.

Man kicked ex-girlfriend in the head

A MAN kicked his ex-girlfriend in the head during a night out in Oswestry, a court heard.

Lewis Duncan, 27, admitted assaulting the victim on two separate occasions.

The hospital finance worker pleaded guilty to an offence of assault occasioning bodily harm on June 11, 2016 relating to the kick and an offence of assault by beating on December 23, the same year.

Shawn Williams, prosecuting, told the court that during the first altercation Duncan, of Tregarthen Lane, in Pant, "grabbed her by her wrists" at a bar. Mr Williams said: "He followed her out. She then describes that they argued and she was pushed to the ground.

"Then she described feeling a massive blow to the head and thought that she was going to die. She was aware that he had kicked her."

He said the victim did not report it to the police until the second incident in December 2016, when he returned home drunk after a Christmas party. Mr Williams said Duncan pulled her hair and dragged her by her wrists.

Duncan initially denied the charges, but changed to guilty pleas ahead of a trial at Telford Magistrates Court. Adrian Roberts, mitigating, said: "It was a volatile relationship and he over-reacted on both occasions."

He was sentenced to a two-year community order, he must pay £450 compensation, £620 costs and £85 victims' surcharge. He must also carry out 80 hours of unpaid work.

New corporate plan is given the green light

SHROPSHIRE Council's updated corporate plan has been given the green light, despite calls from opposition leaders to remove it from the table.

The plan details the intention to spend £300 million on projects to provide jobs, housing, community hubs and infrastructure over the coming years, including £10m on new medical practices in Shrewsbury and Whitchurch, and student accommodation in Shrewsbury.

But Labour's Alan Mosley and Councillor Roger Evans, a Lib Dem, both called for the plan to be scrapped.

Councillor Mosley said: "I'm suggesting you may wish to withdraw this version of the corporate plan and look at the financial viability of the council before submitting it.

"The corporate plan is meaningless unless we can show within it there's financial planning and viability in order to fulfil objectives."

But council leader Peter Nutting said: "As ever there will be challenges, there always are." The authority has already invested about £50m in Shrewsbury's shopping centres and plans to invest about £20m in Shirehall.

Firms discuss tourism support

TOURISM businesses from across Oswestry and the border area met to discuss the area as a visitor attraction.

Oswestry Borderlands Tourism, which supports all types of cross-border tourism businesses, held its annual meeting at the British Ironwork Centre at Aston near Oswestry.

The organisation is based at Oswestry Tourism and Visitor Centre.

Members discussed the project to appoint an Oswestry town crier to help promote the area.

Oswestry Town Council has organised a competition to find someone to fill the role. There was also a display of Oswestry merchandising products, ranging from postcards to tea towels.

Members were urged to stock the products to create an extra revenue stream. The evening ended with a buffet and wine supper.

Picture focus



Time for a bite to eat during the military re-enactment at Whittington Castle



Shots are fired as the skirmish starts at Whittington Castle at the weekend



Officers take a break from the action in the warm Shropshire sunshine

Military enthusiasts flock to castle for war games

Report by Aimee Jones

THE sound of cannons and muskets firing echoed through a village near Oswestry at the weekend.

More than 100 history enthusiasts descended on Whittington Castle for the annual Napoleonic War re-enactment.

Manager Sue Ellis said it is the biggest event in the castle calendar – and this year didn't disappoint.

"This year we have more re-enactors than ever," she said.

"We've got someone who had travelled from Cornwall to take part.

"And obviously the good weather means there's been a good turn-out of people watching.

"It's our biggest event of the year and I'd estimate we had about 300 people here on Saturday which is brilliant."

Visitors were transported back to 1813 following the bloody victory at the breeches of Badajoz and other skirmishes in the peninsula.

Prisoners

It told the story of hundreds of French prisoners of war who were sent back to Britain to be housed in and around Oswestry.

However, a band of local republican sympathisers managed to free several prisoners from their captors and started to run riot in the Shropshire countryside.

They were joined by a band of French insurgents sent on Napoleon's order to cause menace and mayhem.

Hearing the reports, the local mayor sent word to the brigade headquarters asking for help.

Several regiments on home leave were dispatched to quell the invaders who took possession of a stockpile of gunpowder and muskets and were holed up in the ruins of Whittington Castle.

This year's re-enactment was organised by Andrew Heathcote from Anglesey Hussars and 5th/60th American Rifles.

He said: "We have about 140 people taking part and it takes about six or seven months to organise.

"It's difficult to put together because the groups are from all over the country so they have to practise separately and hope it all comes together on the day.

"We're all just volunteers who love what we do and provide all of our own kit and gunpowder.

"It's something you can really get into and



Battle plans are discussed at the castle

at that moment, you can really imagine what it would have been like in the past.

"This time we were paying homage to all of the POWs.

"I really enjoy it but I'm always happy when it's all over and gone well, then I can relax.

"Although then we start thinking about next year."

Skirmish

Following the main skirmish, viewers were invited to take a tour of the camps where the re-enactors live, sleep and eat during their stay.

Andrew Jones, who watched Saturday's bat-



Nathan Fussell is ready for the action during the re-enactment event

tle with his son, said: "It was great to watch – especially in the setting of Whittington Castle.

"I think it's a good way to teach children, and adults too, about history.

"When you watch something like this I think you're more likely to take it in and understand."

The event was made possible thanks to a team of volunteers who keep the castle running on a daily basis.

Jonjo Evans, chairman of the Whittington Castle Preservation Trust, is now calling for people to consider volunteering in the future.

"We rely on volunteers to make these events possible," he said.

"Without them we couldn't do it. We always need people to help look after the castle, whether it be in the tea rooms, car park or just looking after the outside areas.

"The re-enactments are always so popular because they're so well done.

"The castle actually has its own reenactment group now which has really built up recently. "It's gone from having four members to more than 30 which is wonderful.

"Lots of people just don't know about it but everyone who gets involved really enjoys it."

To inquire about the Whittington Castle re-enactment group or volunteering people can call (01691) 662397.

Rare opportunity to buy 19th century stone cottage

The sale of Stone House at Wykey near Ruyton XI Towns is giving a rare opportunity to buy a four-bedroomed 19th century stone cottage on the village outskirts.

A spacious family residence, it comes with a smallholding of around three acres, plus a range of outbuildings.

This property is for sale through Bowen Son & Watson at £499,950. The property is situated in an attractive rural location on the outskirts of the small hamlet of Wykey which is approximately one mile from Ruyton XI Towns, which has a number of local facilities. The larger towns of Oswestry and Shrewsbury are eight and ten miles away respectively. The living accommodation briefly comprises a lounge, dining room, kitchen, conservatory, utility room, study/bedroom and shower room. To the first floor there are four good sized bedrooms and a family bathroom. Outside there is a range of buildings including a garage, stable boxes, store sheds and farm buildings/Dutch barn (currently not in use). The land is split into four even sized paddocks which are well fenced and have a separate gated entrance to the stoned yard.

A paved path leads to the entrance of this home.

The entrance lobby has a stained glass door into a sitting room which has exposed beams to the ceiling and a sandstone fireplace with a solid fuel burner and stairs to the first floor.

The dining room has a feature stone fireplace and exposed beams to the ceiling. It also has tiled flooring and opens into the kitchen. It also has double doors opening into the conservatory which has a fan light, tiled flooring and doors to the garden.

Upstairs are four bedrooms and a family bathroom.

Outside is a private garden with well maintained lawns and shrub borders, views over the open countryside and woodland. A gate opens to a tarmac forecourt providing ample off road parking.

KEY FEATURES

19th century stone cottage

Village outskirts

Four bedrooms

Smallholding

Around three acres

RUYTON XI TOWNS

£499,950



TO VIEW THIS PROPERTY

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Former pub is now spacious family home

MELVERLEY
£440,000

A former public house having bed and breakfast potential, Tontine Inn on Church Lane, Melverley, Oswestry is now a large detached seven en-suite bedroomed home.

Being spacious and well maintained in a pleasant location, it is for sale through Morris Marshall & Poole at £440,000 with no chain. It has been recently upgraded to become a spacious family home. Having oil fired central heating and double glazing throughout, it includes a large sun room, an open-plan living/ dining room with an impressive fireplace, seven first floor bedrooms all with en-suite bathrooms or shower facilities. There is also a fitted kitchen, a guest lounge and ancillary ground floor toilets and stores.

Contact Morris Marshall & Poole on 01691 679595.



Former bakery is in semi rural position

WESTON
£225,000 <<<

A semi-detached former bakery, 1 The Bakery at Weston near Oswestry is a recently renovated Grade II listed semi-detached house located in a semi-rural position.

Having three bedrooms and an Air Source heating system, it is for sale through JJ Dell & Co at £225,000 with no chain. The property is a short distance from Morda village with a local shop, school and pub.The property has new timber double glazed window units and under floor heating to the first floor.

The reception hall has ceramic tiled flooring, as does the cloakroom/WC and a study area which also has a deep storage cupboard. The lounge also has ceramic tiled flooring.

Contact JJ Dell & Co on 01691 653437 for more details about the property.

J. J. DELL & Co.

CHARTERED SURVEYORS

NEW

TREFONEN

- Superb Spacious Detached Bungalow With Countryside Views
- OFCH & DG
- Reception Hall
- Two Reception Rooms
- Study
- Kitchen And Utility/WC
- Sun Room And Garden Room
- Four Bedrooms (Master En Suite)
- Double Garage
- Good Sized Gardens
- EPC Band - E

JJD1001

GUIDE PRICE £469,000

ST. MARTINS

- Semi-Detached House Within Walking Distance Of Village Facilities
- Entrance Hall
- Living Room
- Breakfast Kitchen
- Three Bedrooms
- Bathroom
- Good Sized Rear Garden
- Garage And Car Port
- EPC Band - E

JJD997

GUIDE PRICE £149,000

GLYN CEIRIOG

- Attractive Mid Terraced Property
- Central Village Location
- OCH & PVC DG
- Living Room
- Kitchen Diner
- Two Bedrooms
- Shower Room
- Walk-In Wardrobe
- Loft Room/Office
- Front And Rear Gardens
- On-Street Parking
- EPC Band - E

JJD978

£140,000

THE WERN, LLANYMYNECH

- Spacious Four Bed. Detached House
- With Two Bed. Detached Bungalow
- Oil Fired And Solid Fuel CH. D/Grazing.
- Suitable For Two Families
- Outskirts Of Village Location
- Countryside Views
- Approx. Two Acres Of Woodland
- Double Garaging To Both Properties
- Store Sheds
- EPC Band - E

JJD996

GUIDE PRICE £725,000

PONTFAEN, NR. CHIRK

- Detached Victorian House In Delightful Rural Hamlet
- OFCH & DG
- Breakfast Kitchen With Dining And Living Area
- Reception Room With Cellaage
- Lounge And Sitting Room
- Morning Room (Used as a Cinema Room)
- Laundry Room
- Four Bedrooms (Master En-Suite)
- Two Bathrooms
- Countryside Views
- Office
- EPC Band - F

JJD998

GUIDE PRICE £670,000

NEW PRICE

OVERTON ROAD, NR. ST. MARTINS

- Spacious Detached Character Cottage
- Set Within Extensive Grounds
- Reception Hall
- Breakfast Kitchen
- Utility And Cloakroom
- Large Living Room
- Four Bedrooms (One En-Suite)
- Parking For Up To 6 Cars
- Large Garage
- Workshop/Annex
- EPC Band - F

JJD953

GUIDE PRICE £395,000

LLANGYNOG

- Spacious Detached Dormer House
- Views Overlooking The Valley
- OFCH & DG
- Reception Hall
- Breakfast Kitchen
- Living Room & Dining Room
- Cloakroom & Utility
- Four Bedrooms (Master En Suite)
- Paddock - In All Approx. 2 Acres
- EPC Band - E

JJD973

GUIDE PRICE £439,950

GOBOWEN, NR. OSWESTRY

- Retirement Bungalow On Purpose Built Complex
- Minimum Age 55 Years
- CH & DG
- Lounge/Dining Area
- Kitchen
- Conservatory
- Cloakroom
- Two Bedrooms
- New Bathroom/Wet Room
- Garage
- Rear Enclosed Courtyard
- Short Distance From Office
- EPC Band - D

JJD986

GUIDE PRICE £103,000

GOBOWEN

- Close Care Residential Bungalow On Purpose Built Complex
- CH & DG
- Lounge/Dining Area
- Kitchen
- Conservatory
- Bedroom
- Bathroom
- Rear Enclosed Paved Yard
- Further Overnight Visitor Accommodation Available
- EPC Band - E

JJD987

OFFERS IN THE REGION OF £69,950

CHURCH STREET, OSWESTRY - TO LET

- Most Attractive Grade II Listed Property
- Short Distance From Major Retailers And Institutions
- Bar/Restaurant/Cafe Venue
- Town Centre Location
- Busy Trading Position
- Reception Area
- Lounge And Bar
- Beer Cellar
- Function Room
- Kitchen
- Male/Female/Disabled Toilets
- Flexible Terms To Be Agreed
- EPC Band - JJD991

RENT - £12,500

DEVELOPMENT SITE - HENGOED

- Site Extending To 0.8 Acres
- Property Occupied By Repairs Garage
- OPP For Four Executive Dwellings
- Outskirts Of Village Location
- Open Views Across Surrounding Countryside
- We understand Mains Electricity And Water Available

JJD893

£445,000

PROPERTIES REQUIRED

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llangollen@bowensonandwatson.co.uk

Chirk
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2 Church Street, Chirk,
Wrexham, LL14 5HA
chirk@bowensonandwatson.co.uk

NEW




Llandysilio Llanymynech £325,000

- A substantial 4 Bedroom Detached house standing in extensive grounds
- Hosting a range of original features throughout.
- Entrance Hall, Lounge, Dining Room, Kitchen, Utility Room
- Shower Room, Boot Room, Snug/Bedroom Four and Cellar
- 2 front bedrooms, dressing rm, further bedroom & Bathroom & separate WC.
- 3 attic rooms which provide potential for a range of uses.
- Formal lawned gardens with summer house
- Adjoining Paddock, workshops and Garage.

NEW




Oswald's Well lane Oswestry £285,000

- A spacious 4 bedroom detached dormer bungalow
- Situated within walking distance of the Market Town of Oswestry.
- Lounge, Kitchen/Diner, Utility Room, Dining Room,
- Study/Bedroom Four and Downstairs Bathroom.
- Three Bedrooms and Family Bathroom.
- Gas fired central heating and uPVC double glazing
- Good sized gardens with views over the Brynhafoed playing fields
- EPC Rating C (70). NO CHAIN

NEW




Oaklands Drive Whittington £215,000

- A well presented 2 bedroom detached bungalow
- Situated in the sought after village of Whittington
- Entrance Hall, Lounge, Kitchen/ Diner
- Walk-In Storage Cupboard/Dining Room
- 2 Bedrooms and Wet Room
- An enclosed garden with a raised decked area
- Storage shed offering a range of uses together with
- Single garage and driveway. Gas C/H and double glazing
- NO CHAIN

NEW



High Fawr Avenue £119,995

- NO CHAIN
- one bedroom semi detached bungalow
- In a sought after residential location
- Hallway, Lounge, Kitchen
- Bedroom and Bathroom
- Gardens to the rear & driveway
- Storage heaters, uPVC Double Glazing
- EPC Rating F (36)

NEW




Rosehill Avenue Whittington £199,995

- Well proportioned 2/3 bedroom detached dormer bungalow
- Situated in the sought after village of Whittington
- Ent Hall, Cloakroom, Lounge, Kitchen
- Dining Room and Study/Bedroom 3
- 2 Bedrooms and Bathroom on 1st floor
- Enclosed rear garden with paved seating area
- Gravel Driveway and Single Garage
- UPVC double glazing and Gas C/H
- EPC Rating awaited. NO CHAIN

NEW




Artillery Road Park Hall £169,995

- A deceptively spacious 3 Bedroom Mid-Terrace Family Home.
- Recently been extended to offer an open plan kitchen/diner to the rear
- Separate Utility Room and WC.
- The lounge benefits from a Multi Fuel log burner & French doors to the garden
- Three Bedrooms and Newly fitted Bathroom to first floor.
- Externally the property offers a enclosed garden
- Paved patio providing a outdoor entertaining area
- UPVC double glazing. EPC Rating E (40)
- NO CHAIN


NEW




Arthur Street Oswestry £100,000

- FOR SALE OR LET
- An excellent opportunity to buy or lease a town centre office premises comprising of ground floor office (extending to around 700 sq ft)
- With first floor offices (extending around to 800 sq ft) together with kitchen and toilets
- The premises are situated in a convenient position within the centre of the popular market town of Oswestry
- The property has been maintained to the highest of standards and could potential be used for other uses (subject to obtaining any necessary consents/permissions).

NEW



Prince Street Oswestry £90,000

- NO CHAIN AND OFF ROAD PARKING
- A 2 Bedroom Mid-Terrace House in need of modernisation
- Situated within walking distance of the centre of Oswestry
- Lounge/Dining Room, Kitchen and Shower Room
- On the first floor there are 2 double




Lloyd Street Oswestry £159,995

- NO CHAIN - An immaculately presented 3 bedroom mid-terrace property
- Entrance Hall, Lounge, Dining Room
- Newly fitted Kitchen and Utility Room
- 3 Bedrooms and a newly fitted Bathroom
- Recently re-wired, damp course fitted, decoration, new carpets
- Newly fitted uPVC double glazed windows and doors throughout.
- Gas Fired Central Heating. EPC Rating D (64)

NEW




Babbinswood Oswestry £350,000

- A spacious 4 bed detached cottage
- Situated in the Hamlet of Babbinswood
- Ent Hall, Cloaks, Lounge/Dining Rm
- Kitchen, Utility, Snug & Conservatory
- 2 further Bedrooms & Family Wet Rm
- Extensive lawned garden with hedge surround
- Patio area & side driveway to Double Garage
- UPVC double glazing throughout
- Two en-suite bedrooms




Carneddau Close Trefonen £380,000

- A substantial Detached 4 Bedroom Family Home with Double Garage
- Situated in the popular village of Trefonen
- This well presented property enjoys a sought after position
- Entrance Hall, Cloak Room, Lounge, Sun Room, Dining Room
- Study, Kitchen/ Breakfast Room, Utility room, galleryed first floor landing
- Master Bed with Dressing Rm & En-Suite, 3 further Double Beds & Family Bathrm
- Off road parking, double garage and enclosed gardens
- Oil central heating and double glazing.



Building Plot Gobowen £50,000

- An excellent residential development opportunity located in the popular village of Gobowen
- Extending to 0.12 acres (0.04 ha) or thereabouts
- Having outline planning permission for the erection of one detached dwelling.




Henlle Gardens Gobowen £220,000

- NO CHAIN - A 4 Bedroom Detached Family Home
- Situated in the popular village of Gobowen
- Ent Hall, Cloaks, Lounge, Dining Room
- Kitchen/Breakfast Room, Utility & Integral Garage
- Master Bedroom with En-suite, 3 further Bedrooms & Family Bathroom
- Front & rear gardens and driveway to the front
- Gas C/H and Timber framed single glazing. EPC Rating D (59)




Llanrhaeadr YM Mochnant £175,000

- A traditional 3 bedroom semi-detached stone cottage
- Spacious living accommodation over three floors comprising
- Entr Hall, Lounge, and Family Room.
- To the lower level is the Kitchen
- Dining Room, Conservatory
- Utility Room and Shower Room
- 3 bedrooms and Family Bathroom
- Riverside garden with wooden decking area
- Oil Fired c/h & partly double glazed windows
- NO CHAIN




Whittington Road Gobowen £159,995

- A spacious 2 bedroom semi-detached bungalow
- Entrance Hall, Lounge, Kitchen, Dining Room
- Shower Room and 2 Bedrooms
- An enclosed garden mainly laid to lawn
- Driveway to the side
- Gas Fired Central Heating and UPVC D/G
- EPC Rating D (62)
- NO CHAIN



Upper Brook Street £104,995

- Well presented 2 bedroom mid terraced property
- Situated on the fringe of the town centre
- Lounge, Kitchen,
- Two Bedrooms and Bathroom
- Rear Garden with Shed
- Gas C/H and D/G. EPC Rating F (28)
- An Ideal First Time or Investment




Trefonen Road Morda £270,000

- An immaculately presented 3 bedroom detached family home
- Set on the edge of the popular village of Morda
- Outstanding views to the rear over open countryside.
- The property has been extended and tastefully renovated throughout
- Entrance Hall, Shower Room/Utility, Kitchen/Diner, Lounge
- 3 Bedrooms, family bathroom
- uPVC Double Glazing and Gas C/H. EPC Rating C (74)
- Garage and gardens with views to rear.




Inglis Road Park Hall £300,000

- A rare opportunity to purchase a spacious Detached 5 Bedroom Family Home
- Situated in the popular hamlet of Park Hall
- Entrance Hall, Cloakroom, Lounge, Dining Room, Kitchen and Utility Room.
- Master Bedroom with En-suite
- 4 further Double Bedrooms and Family Bathroom.
- Well designed landscaped garden offering a wide range of uses
- Double Garage and Driveway.
- Gas Fired Central Heating and uPVC Double Glazing
- EPC Rating E (71)




Liverpool Road Oswestry £199,950

- A spacious Edwardian 4 Bedroom End-of-Terrace House
- Situated within an established residential location
- The property has been maintained to a high standard
- Entrance Porch, Entrance Hall, Lounge, Living Room
- Kitchen, Utility, Sun Room & ground floor Shower Rm
- 3 Double Bedrooms & 1 Single Bedroom
- Further Sun Room and Family Bathroom
- Enclosed courtyard and garage.
- Gas central heating and double glazing. EPC Rating E (40)



Building Plot Chirk Bank £74,995

- A residential plot located in the picturesque village of Chirk Bank
- Extending to 0.04 acres or thereabouts with outline planning permission for the erection of one detached dwelling
- The site is located within walking distance of the Shropshire Union Canal and the Chirk Aqueduct



Perfect country retreat has outstanding views

MOELFRE
£595,000

A perfect country retreat, away from the hustle and bustle of everyday life, Y Dafarn at Moelfre, has four bedrooms and outstanding countryside views.

Overlooking Moelfre Lake, it is for sale through Town & Country at £595,000 with no chain. A highly desirable and attractive four bedroom detached family home, it sits in three acres of fields and gardens. Its accommodation briefly comprises a reception room, a living room, a shower room, a kitchen/breakfast room, a laundry, an orangery, a study, a master bedroom with an en-suite, three further bedrooms and a bathroom. To the outside there are beautiful gardens leading to the lake, tandem and double garages, ample off-road parking, outbuildings and a sun terrace.

Contact Town & Country on 01691 679631.



17th century home offers highly flexible accommodation

HOPE
£725,000 <<<

Little Hope, at Hope, Leighton near Welshpool is a 17th century cottage that has undergone a large extension.

Currently run as a bed and breakfast business, its flexible layout means it also provides for two co-habiting families, with separate quarters. In a design which flows with exceptional clarity and focus as a property with an option for two halves, it is for sale through Balfours at £725,000.

Nestled in the hamlet of Hope, Leighton is just two miles from Welshpool, with all necessary services to hand. It is located on the original Offa's Dyke and sits within an acre of garden and grounds in an elevated position on Long Mountain. The result is a magnificent uninterrupted vista across open countryside – a true wow.

Contact Balfours on 01743 353511.

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NEW



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Guide Price £575,000

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UNDER OFFER



Clive, Shropshire

Guide Price £495,000

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NEW



West Felton, Oswestry

Guide Price £495,000

An attractive period family house situated in a rural location with countryside views

Kitchen, Sitting Room, Office, Utility, Ground Floor Bedroom and Bathroom, First Floor Sitting Room, 4 Bedrooms, Shower Room, Gardens / Grounds, EPC Rating E



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Tontine Inn, Molverley

Former Public House now affords a large detached residence in pleasant location. Recently up-graded and offers opportunity for B & B. Oil C/H, large sun room, open-plan living/dining room with impressive fireplace. Seven bedrooms all have en-suite bathroom or shower facilities. Detached stores/workshop or garage. EPC Rating: 65(C)

Oswestry Office 01691 679595



£440,000



Wootton Fields, Queens Head

Attractive well maintained detached cottage set in approx 5 Acres of adjoining grazing. Oil central heating, double glazing. Two receptions. Master bedroom with adjoining dressing room, second bedroom and bathroom. Within easy reach of the A5 Trunk Road. Range of detached ancillary stores. EPC Rating = 32(F)

Oswestry Office 01691 679595



£425,000



Tyn-Y-Pistyll, Garth, Glyn Ceiriog

Individual 3 Bedroom Detached House with Outstanding Valley Views. F/floor open plan living accommodation. Landscaped terraced gardens and woodland. Ample on-site parking adjoining the house. EPC Rating = F(30)

Oswestry Office 01691 679595



50 Highfields, Shrewsbury

Well presented and extended three bedroom family home situated in a popular residential district convenient for Shrewsbury Town Centre and local schools. Double glazed, gas fired central heating. EPC Rating = 69(C)

Oswestry Office 01691 679595

59 Hampton Fields, Oswestry

Two bedroom detached bungalow. Garage, gardens and ample parking. Gas central heating, double glazing. Very popular location close to Oswestry Town Centre. Quiet head of cul-de-sac position. Requires some updating. No chain. EPC Rating = 48(E)

Oswestry Office 01691 679595



£215,000



15 Trehowell Lane, Weston Rhyn

Three bedroom semi-detached house. Well proportioned with hall, lounge, dining room and kitchen. Corner plot with enclosed gardens and off road parking. Gas central heating. Close to village school. No chain. EPC Rating = D(62)

Oswestry Office 01691 679595



£149,950



64 Penybryn Avenue, Whittington

Established 3 bedroom semi-detached house idea for first time buyers or a young family, located on a cul-de-sac just 3 miles from Oswestry Town Centre. Double glazed windows, gas central heating, gardens to front and rear with ample off-road parking to the side. Some updating and improvement work is required. EPC Rating = 52(E)

Oswestry Office 01691 679595



Accommodation Land, Weston Rhyn, Oswestry

Roadside accommodation land extending to approximately 14 acres currently in permanent pasture. The land is registered and Basic Payment Scheme Entitlements will be included in the sale which is by Private Treaty.

Welshpool Office 01938 554818



16 The Stables, High Lea House, Oswestry

A one bedroom ground floor apartment located within the former grounds of High Lea House, off Llanforda Rise, quiet location convenient for the Town Centre. With gas central heating, double glazing and two car parking spaces. EPC Rating = 62(D)

Oswestry Office 01691 679595

2 Dolphin Cottages, Llanymynech

£99,950

Traditional character cottage within the centre of the village. Period features include exposed stone walls, beams, brick fireplace with inset cast iron stove. Lounge, kitchen, landing, bedroom and shower room, small courtyard style front garden, two car parking spaces. Oil central heating and double glazed windows. EPC Rating = E (41)

Oswestry Office 01691 679595



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Welshpool 01938 554818
Aberdyfi (window display)



Stunning farmhouse enjoys superb views

LLANRHAeadR
£400,000

Clynog, Llanrhaeadr Ym Mochnant near Oswestry is a stunning Grade II listed farmhouse in an elevated position.

It is for sale through Bowen Son & Watson at £400,000. The property is situated on the outskirts of the picturesque village of Llanrhaeadr-ym-Mochnant close to the confluence of the rivers Tanat and Rhaeadr in the stunning Berwyn Mountains.

The property has a reception hall, music room, sitting room, dining room, kitchen lounge, kitchen, utility room, rear lobby, coal house, gallery landing, a loft storage room, integral garage, gun room, five first floor bedrooms, a family bathroom, five attic rooms, large gardens and an orchard/paddock.

Call Bowen Son & Watson on 01691 652367.



Well located property in hamlet comes with cottage

LLANGEDWYN
£229,950

<<<

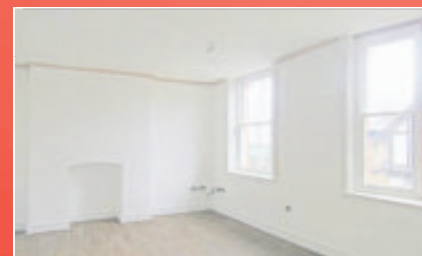
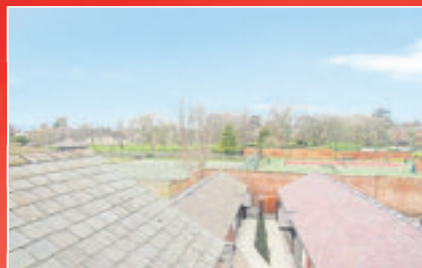
Well located in the small hamlet of Pentre Felin in the Tanat Valley, 2 Glanrafon Cottages, Pentre Felin, Llangedwyn, comes with an attached single bedroom cottage subject to a protected tenancy, known as Number 1.

Coming with good sized gardens, a range of detached outbuildings and having scope for improvement, it is for sale through Morris Marshall & Poole at £229,950.

The main drive approach off the access lane passes by a range of brick/stone and slate roofed detached stores providing ample storage. A small section is included with No1 Glanrafon Cottages, and is therefore subject to the protected tenancy status.

Contact Morris Marshall & Poole on 01691 679595 for more details and to arrange a viewing.

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Cottage has well maintained accommodation

QUEENS HEAD
£425,000

<<<

An attractive detached cottage with well maintained accommodation set in around five acres of adjoining grazing, Wootton Fields, Queens Head, Oswestry is for sale through Morris Marshall & Poole at £425,000.

Having oil fired central heating and double glazing, its accommodation briefly comprises two reception rooms, an inner hall, a rear lobby and fitted kitchen, a master bedroom with an adjoining dressing room, a second bedroom and a three piece bathroom. The property comes with a range of detached ancillary stores and is within easy reach of the A5 trunk road, enabling access to all major towns.

For more details about the property and to arrange a viewing contact Morris Marshall & Poole on 01691 679595.



Double fronted residence in valley

PONTFAEN
£670,000

A detached double fronted Victorian residence, Bryn Ceiriog in the hamlet of Pontfaen near Chirk, is positioned within the picturesque Ceiriog Valley.

Having four bedrooms and three bathrooms, it is for sale through JJ Dell & Co at £670,000. With double glazing and oil central heating, it has an entrance hall, a living room, sitting room, a laundry room, a breakfast kitchen, a morning room, three bathrooms, four bedrooms, a reception room and a cellar. The lounge has a marble fireplace, picture railing and sash windows to the front and side, ceiling cornicing and panelled flooring.

For more details contact JJ Dell & Co on 01691 653437.

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28 Restoration of workhouse is progressing

Oswestry & Border Chronicle Thursday, May 10, 2018

WORK has begun on the master's house at an historic workhouse in a Mid Wales town.

Following the launch of an appeal for urgent roof repairs last year, scaffolding has now gone up on one of the gables on the three storey Llanfyllin Workhouse.

One of the chimneys had been found to be leaning and to avert any possible risk the trustees decided action was needed. The chimney was taken down by local craftsman Richard Stephenson and will be rebuilt using the original bricks and traditional lime mortar.

To help fund the work the workhouse's trust received a grant of £2,740 from the Community Foundation in Wales through the Welsh Church Act scheme which helps community groups.

In April members of the Master's House Steering Group met Powys County Council's conservation officer to discuss plans drawn up by Llanrhaeadr architect Richard Payne.

The new plans include a new entrance from the first courtyard and internal improvements as well as repairs to the roof and the restoration of the classical cupola which once crowned the building.

The plans will be formally submitted when a bat survey has been completed and the major work will take several months.

Shops to pop up at village's railway station

POP-UP shops will be set up at a railway station near Oswestry on Saturday.

Since successfully purchasing the station buildings at Gobowen through a community right to buy bid last year, Oswestry Station Building Trust has been working with the local community group Gobowen Area Improvement Group to apply for listed building consent and change of use for the building on platform two.

The empty unit on platform two will undergo a refurbishment ready for letting in the future but organisers have decided to open it up for the day for small, local, home-based businesses.

They are being encouraged to sign up to the free pop-up shop opportunity and a children's tombola is also being run.

Also on offer will be an array of plants being sold by the Derwen College and there will be a chance also to see the development plans for a community rail service in the future. Open from 10am to 4pm the unit will see stalls promoting and selling a wide range of goods in the building. Severn Dee Travel who operate the booking office will remain open too during this period and the cafe run by the Derwen College situated in the waiting room will be serving its usual hot coffee and home made cakes and sandwiches. The event is being arranged in conjunction with the Cambrian Heritage Railway and its official opening of the Oswestry Station signal box and Gobowen Church Hall which is re-opening after refurbishment.

Ex-councillor's work recognised

A FORMER councillor has been honoured for three decades of service to Oswestry.

John Gareth Jones, mayor of Oswestry Town Council three times, stood down last year after 30 years as a councillor.

He was given a special award at the council's annual dinner.

Current mayor, Councillor Vince Hunt, said Mr Jones was one of the most recognisable faces in the town's community.

"Life after council continues to see Gareth as busy as ever helping others," he said.

"He made many friends for Oswestry and was instrumental in taking the town council onto the national stage. Through his efforts and passion Oswestry secured a contract with the National Association of British Market Authorities to run many of their services and that has brought us well over £30,000 in the last decade."

Councillor Hunt said Mr Jones was the first president of the National Association of British Market Authorities to come from the parish and town council sector and travelled many miles promoting markets and in particular Oswestry markets.

Continuing to buy British produce after Brexit is vital to farming industry says MP

BUYING produce from British farmers will be just as important after Brexit as it is now according to an MP.

Farming leaders have called for government support to ensure farmers and growers remain the number one supplier of choice to UK consumers when Britain leaves the EU.

Montgomeryshire MP Glyn Davies, who is a farmer himself, has reiterated it is an uncertain time for farmers in Wales and across the UK.

But he has urged people in Montgomeryshire and the UK to keep buying local after Brexit.

He said: "I think it is always the case that you need people to buy local, and that is what I want to happen after Brexit."

"In Montgomeryshire and Powys, farming is a big part of the economy, and we want that to

Report by Jonny Drury

continue. I think it will be the same message, for people to continue to buy local regardless of Brexit."

The National Farmers' Union wants to see the planned new farming policy after the UK leaves the European Union allow consumers to enjoy more sustainable, quality and affordable British food, whatever their income.

Vision

The farming group has outlined its vision for what the future should look like when the UK leaves the EU-wide Common Agricultural Policy which pays subsidies to farmers, which the

Government is currently consulting on. Amid calls for taxpayers' money only to be spent on areas such as protecting landscapes and wildlife and preventing flooding, rather than the current system of payments for owning land, the NFU has said food production should be recognised as in the national interest.

The UK public benefits from a sufficient degree of self sufficiency, safe and traceable domestic food supplies, agricultural jobs and investment and high standards of welfare and environmental protection, the NFU argues.

It has called for new policies which are fair to all farm businesses, provide a level playing field across the UK and with major competitors, and gives time and certainty for farmers to plan, adapt and invest in the future.

And it must ensure public investment remains effective in promoting productivity, helping farmers manage volatile market conditions and fairly rewards environmental action, the NFU urged.

NFU president Minette Batters said: "We are now on the cusp of a pivotal moment, as we leave the Common Agricultural Policy and once again take sovereign control of our agricultural affairs."

"I am clear on what success will look like. I want British farmers and growers to remain the number one supplier of choice to the UK market, and I want British people to be able to enjoy more sustainable, quality, affordable British food at a range of different prices that suit all incomes."

Call made for more help to allow businesses to grow

Report by Jonny Drury

A POLITICIAN has called for more business units to support economic growth in Powys.

Questioning the Welsh Government's cabinet secretary for economy last week Russell George, Assembly Member for Montgomeryshire, called for the Welsh Government to find a potential solution to the shortage of commercial units in North Powys so that businesses can develop and expand their operations.

The cabinet secretary, Ken Skates AM, agreed to attend a meeting to be organised by Mr George, along with the chief regional officer who is putting together a regional plan for Mid and South West Wales.

Mr Skates said that the plan is an effort to ensure that the Welsh Government's Economic Action Plan specifically addresses the lack of available and suitable premises for growing businesses.

Invested

The Welsh Government has already invested in places to accommodate companies such as Zip-Clip, Invertek Drives and Charlies stores which has been beneficial to the Welshpool area.

Mr George welcomed Mr Skates' support for a potential Mid Wales Growth Deal to allow businesses in the area to prosper.

And he said businesses are asking for help to find units. Mr George said: "I continue to be approached by a number of companies in the Newtown and Welshpool areas who have experienced difficulties in obtaining suitable sites to develop and expand their business."

"I was pleased that Ken Skates recognised this issue and, like me, saw the potential of a Mid Wales Growth Deal in providing a solution to the shortage of commercial units. We have a strong manufacturing and engineering industry throughout the Severn Valley and I am keen that the Welsh Government continues to support this sector to grow."

"I'm particularly pleased that the cabinet secretary has agreed to meet a number of local businesses with me, to learn more about the issues which they are facing, with a view to exploring options to support business growth in the area."

"I would encourage businesses to contact me if they are experiencing difficulties in growing their business as a result of lack of commercial accommodation or sites available."

Dominic delighted to be reaching for the sky



Dominic Bareford takes passengers on a balloon flight over Oswestry and says he loves flying over his home town

A CHAMPION Oswestry balloonist has become the youngest-ever commercial hot air balloon pilot to fly for the world's biggest passenger flights company.

Dominic Bareford, aged 23, from Morda joined Virgin Balloon Flights at the start of the 2018 flying season and has already taken dozens of happy passengers on an experience of a lifetime over the skies of North Shropshire.

With a brand new launch site at Sweeney

Hall, Morda, the iconic red Virgin balloon is set to become a regular sight in the Oswestry skies.

The current reigning UK national ballooning champion, Dominic has won the title every year since 2015.

And he said he is now enjoying every aspect of what he calls the best job in the world.

"One of the best things is seeing the passengers' first reactions when you launch – that

moment of 'wow' as you take off," said Dominic.

"I love flying over my home town and over the wider area in general, pointing out landmarks such as the Welsh hills on one side and the Shropshire plain on the other."

"It's good fun and a great way to spend a morning or evening." As well as flying from Oswestry, Dominic also has another Shropshire launch site in Whitchurch.

Counselling service wins civic award from mayor

A COUNSELLING organisation has received an award for its work after helping almost 4,000 people.

U&I Counselling, based in Oswestry, is a professional, voluntary service that helps clients of all ages referred by doctors and other health agencies.

Its work can range from helping teenagers with anxieties to people with addictions, individuals, couples and families.

The community interest company says it is currently busier than ever, particularly with its

work with children and young people. The service has a waiting list of clients and says more financial support would help it to offer even more counselling.

The service recently won the Oswestry civic community award, presented by town mayor, Councillor Vince Hunt.

Councillor Hunt said: "This is a wonderful organisation that works under the radar."

"It works with people of all ages helping with mental health issues and does great work with young people."

Team leader Wendy Hickson said anxiety among children was endemic.

"So much is expected of children today and educational pressure is one of the factors," she said.

"There are completely different demands on young people today."

"Although everyone talks about children's mental health, there is very little out there that helps with it."

"Their problems can affect the whole family. "It is heartbreaking as a parent to see your

child struggling to cope." As well as supporting young people, U&I Counselling can help with a wide range of issues.

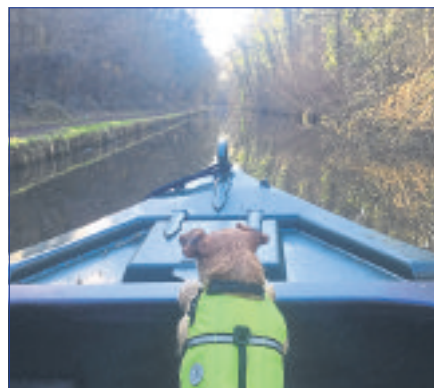
Ms Hickson said U&I Counselling had a team of 26 counsellors who all gave their services voluntarily.

"We have continued professional development and we have to run our counselling suite in English Walls," she said.

"We are extremely grateful that the mayor nominated us as one of his charities during his year in office."



The narrowboat kitchen is a fair size



Captain Jack admires the view

Cruising the canals for a leisurely weekend

WHEN you take a break and it pours down, yet you still really enjoy yourself – imagine what it would have been like if the sun had shone?

Well I took a narrowboat for Easter weekend, possibly the wettest one we've had in recent years, and did come back all smiles.

Good Friday could well have been St Swithun's Day with the rain lashing down as I headed towards the Gailey Marina to board for my first narrowboat cruise. It was also cold.

But with waterproofs provided with the hire boat keeping out the rain and central heating down below deck we certainly did not suffer from the adverse weather.

A tour of the boat's facilities was followed by tuition on how to start up, look after the engine and steer, and we were off down the Staffordshire and Worcestershire Canal for our overnight stop, a gentle cruise to Hatherton conveniently next to a pub for a small libation before cooking supper in the cosy cabin.

Our narrowboat was a small one that can take four but is ideal for a couple or a couple with two children as it has one bedroom with doors that open onto a sitting area in the bow and a seating area in the main cabin that can be made into a bed. The seating area is comfortable with a table that can be folded away, a TV and radio. The shower is full size (not a wet room!) with plenty of space for ablutions. And also storage areas, in fact the boat had plenty of storage to stow away all your stuff.

Now back to cooking supper. The kitchen is a fair size with a full-size cooker equipped with four gas rings, a grill and oven. There's also a full-size fridge and microwave and there's plenty of kitchen utensils. No problem to cook a family meal here. There's also a welcome tray with tea, coffee, sugar and milk.

After a very comfortable sleep, we had a leisurely breakfast and gently went on our

ON HOLIDAY

Report by Sharon Walters

way south to Autherley Junction and a turn onto the Shropshire Union – known among narrowboaters as the Shroppie. Here we had our first lock – just a drop of one inch, so not really a drop at all but it did involve lock gates. It was built purely for financial motives which are worth discovering more about if you do go to the area.

And here we really began our journey through beautiful countryside – although I would quite like to take a narrowboat trip further down the Staffordshire through the Black Country and into the Gas Street Basin in Birmingham.

The joy of being on a narrowboat is that you have to slow down, you can't rush, there is plenty of time to take in your surroundings, stop and moor up if you see something interesting ashore or fancy a walk, or enjoy one of those canalside pubs.

We went up almost to Norbury Junction, with a proper lock involved this time, before turning round and mooring up at Wheaton Aston for the night and another supper on board. Most narrowboats are dog-friendly and my hound Jack, while not enjoying water very much, did rather like the views. And speaking of friendly, you meet such lovely people on the canals.

This year the Canal & River Trust is celebrating 50 years of canal renaissance and holidays on the inland waterways. So if you're looking for a restful break, maybe this is the year to try a narrowboat.

If you want to find out more visit the 2018 Crick Boat Show, Britain's biggest inland waterways event, from May 26 to 28, at Crick Marina, near Daventry in Northamptonshire, NN6 7SQ. Advance tickets are now on sale, saving 15 per cent on the entry price.

*** For more information and to book tickets, camping pitches and moorings, visit www.crickboatshow.com or call 01283 742970.**



Narrowboats are equipped with everything you could need for your waterways trip

Sun shines for new Shropshire Maid narrowboat

THE sun shone as a new canal boat specially designed for people with disabilities hit the water in Shropshire.

The Lyneal Trust has commissioned a new six berth boat called the Shropshire Maid to provide holidays for elderly and disabled people in the county.

Peter Walters from the charity said: "The boat is special in so many different ways."

"It was built specially to our design with elderly and disabled people in mind so it's quite unique."

Mr Walters added: "We've actually got people coming to have a look at it soon to

see if they can design something similar."

The 70ft narrowboat is fitted with a wet room and disabled toilet and has a ramp and lift to enable access for wheelchair users of passengers with impaired movement.

At the front of the boat there is also a large wheelchair-friendly area that can be opened up on fine days allowing the best views of the countryside.

Complete

It comes complete with a dining area, TV, radio and DVD facilities. It will work alongside the popular eight berth Shropshire Lass II, which is currently undergoing refurbishment inside and out.

"These boats are fulfilling a demand

for people with disabilities to be able to have a holiday they didn't think they would be able to manage," Mr Walters said. "Families and carers can go off as a unit and enjoy their holiday in comfort."

"But we also can't lose sight of the day boat, Shropshire Lady. It's ideal for groups who are celebrating something special like a birthday."

The trust has recently started working with Derwen College in Gobowen near Oswestry to provide day trips for its students.

Mr Walters added: "We're starting to see younger people use the boats these days too."

For more information on the boats call 01948 710708.

Get taste of community spirit – just like in novel



Report by Sarah Marshall

WHEN resourceful Elizabeth McKenna and her friends accidentally bump into a German patrol after curfew, she quickly excuses their misdemeanours by claiming they are all part of a book club.

The ridiculous name of the group, The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society, is inspired by the potato pie one member is holding at the time.

The title of Mary Ann Shaffer's novel is a fitting tribute to an island shaped by a jovial community spirit.

A new film adaptation directed by Mike Newell follows the story of the "accidental" literary group and it's central characters, through the eyes of journalist Juliet Ashton (Lily James), who is invited to the island by pig farmer Dawsey Adams (Michiel Huisman) after he finds her name scrawled in a book.

A heart-warming, uplifting tale, the film shines a spotlight on Guernsey's German occupation during the Second World War; a period recalled by islanders through museums and historic sites. But it also highlights the sense of togetherness shared by residents – a quality that makes this island truly unique.

Although scenes were largely shot in Devon, the film's soul undoubtedly belongs to Guernsey. Discover the Channel Island for yourself by exploring these key sites connected to the story.

ST PETER PORT (pictured)

Cobbled streets and colourful houses greet visitors to Guernsey's delightfully compact capital – just as they do Juliet in the book. The scenic harbour, where

Dawsey Adams works, is a great place to sit back and breathe in the sea air. The Old Town Hospital (now the Guernsey Police Station) is where Elizabeth McKenna works as a volunteer.

THE LITTLE CHAPEL

Locals claim this is the smallest chapel in the world, and measuring five metres by three metres, they might be right. It was built in 1914 by French monk Brother Deodat, who wanted to create a miniature version of the grotto and basilica at Lourdes.

THE SHIP & CROWN

Previously the Crown Hotel, which is mentioned in the novel, this traditional pub overlooking the marina in St Peter Port will be celebrating the film's release with a themed menu. During the Guernsey Heritage Festival (May 2 to 9), the pub will serve potato peel pies and real ales. There will also be special events and talks about the Occupation and Liberation of the island. Visit liberationgroup.com

ST MARTIN PARISH

Walk along the quiet lanes of this parish to see the places where key characters of the Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society lived. Visit Dawsey Adams' house in La Bouvee and Eben Ramsey's residence on Calais Lane – which was also the "birthplace" of the society.

FERMAIN BAY

Regularly mentioned in the book, this pebbly beach on the island's east coast can be reached by a cliff-top walk. Refuel at the Fermain Beach Cafe, where gluten-free cakes and sandwiches are served.

GERMAN OCCUPATION MUSEUM

For an idea of what life must have been like during the occupation, visit this immersive museum founded and run by local Richard Heaume, who started collecting bullets from fields as a schoolboy.

CANDIE GARDENS

Anyone looking to discover the history of the island, just like Juliet, should visit the excellent Priaux Library, filled with books, maps and documents about Guernsey.



Celebrating the arrival of The Shropshire Maid



Pointless Celebrities
7.10pm
Alexander Armstrong and Richard Osman present a theatre actors special of the general knowledge quiz, featuring Wayne Sleep, Neil Dudgeon, Rufus Hound, Roy Hudd and Anita Harris.

BBC1	
6.00	Breakfast.
10.00	Saturday Kitchen Live. Host Matt Tebbutt is joined by chefs Carl Clarke and Sabrina Ghayour, while TV presenter and 2016 Strictly Come Dancing champion Ore Oduba faces his food heaven or hell.
11.30	The Hairy Bikers' Asian Adventure. Dave Myers and Si King continue their culinary journey by heading to Japan, where they visit Tokyo's famous fish market and take part in a sumo-wrestling bout. (R)
12.00	Football Focus. Dan Walker and guests review the week's headlines and look ahead to the final round of Premier League fixtures, including Huddersfield Town v Arsenal and Swansea City v Stoke City.
1.00	BBC News; Weather.
1.15	Rugby League's Legendary Watersplash Final. The 1968 Challenge Cup final between Leeds and Wakefield Trinity at Wembley Stadium – best remembered for Don Fox's conversion miss in the dying minutes, which handed Leeds victory.
2.00	Live Challenge Cup Rugby League. Castleford Tigers v St Helens (Kick-off 2.30pm). Mark Chapman presents coverage of the sixth-round fixture, which takes place at the Mend-A-Hose Jungle.
4.30	Doodlebugs. Sketch show in which inanimate objects share their thoughts on the world. With the voices of Kayvan Novak, Cardinal Burns, Morgana Robinson and Spencer Jones. Last in the series.
4.45	FILM: Big Hero 6 (2014). An orphan forms a special bond with an inflatable robot who helps him and his friends investigate a devastating event. Animated adventure, with the voice of Ryan Potter.
6.20	Ready or Not. Game show featuring unsuspecting members of the public who face surprise challenges while going about their daily lives. Paddy McGuinness provides the commentary.
6.50	BBC News.
7.00	Midlands Today; Weather.
7.10	Pointless Celebrities. Alexander Armstrong and Richard Osman present a theatre actors special of the general knowledge quiz, featuring Wayne Sleep, Neil Dudgeon, Rufus Hound, Roy Hudd and Anita Harris.
8.00	Eurovision Song Contest 2018. Graham Norton returns to the commentary box to cover all the action from tonight's Grand Final, live from the Altice Arena in Lisbon, following Portugal's triumph in Kiev last year. Subsequent programmes subject to change.
11.35	BBC News; Weather; National Lottery Update.
11.55	FILM: Lay the Favourite (2012). A Las Vegas cocktail waitress proves a success as a professional gambler, but arouses the jealousy of her mentor's wife. Comedy, starring Rebecca Hall and Bruce Willis.
1.20	Weather for the Week Ahead.
1.25	BBC News.



Dad's Army
8.30pm
The platoon takes part in an exercise with the regular army and everything goes well - until pompous Captain Mainwaring assumes the role of an enemy agent on the run.

BBC2	
6.15	David Attenborough's Natural Curiosities. (R)
6.40	Naomi's Nightmares of Nature. (R)
7.10	The Pets Factor.
7.30	The Designers.
8.00	Absolute Genius Super Tech with Dick & Dom.
8.30	Beyond Bionic.
9.00	Robot Wars. An experienced contestant returns to defend his legacy. (R)
10.00	Astronauts: Do You Have What It Takes? A group of people undergo astronaut training. (R)
11.00	Homes Under the Hammer. Exploring properties in Derby, Nottingham and Kent. (R)
12.00	The World According to Kids. Children are equipped with cameras to reveal what they really think of the world. (R)
1.00	Money for Nothing. Sarah Moore transforms items reclaimed from a tip in Stockport. (R)
1.10	Escape to the Country. Nicki Chapman heads to Cornwall on a £750,000 property search. (R)
1.55	FILM: Finding Neverland (2004). Fact-based period drama, starring Johnny Depp.
3.30	Top of the Shop with Tom Kerridge. Baked goods producers fight it out for a place in the final. (R)
4.30	Top of the Shop with Tom Kerridge. The seven heat winners are up against each other in the grand final. Last in the series. (R)
5.30	Love in the Countryside. Dairy farmers Pete and Ed's dates arrive on their farms. (R)
6.30	The Forest. How a fleet of highly skilled trucks transport the valuable cargo of timber from the Galloway Forest Park to mills north and south of the border.
7.00	The World's Most Extraordinary Homes. Piers Taylor and Caroline Quentin explore four bold and extraordinary homes in Spain, a country renowned for experimental and fearless architecture. (R)
8.00	Coast Lives. Weatherman Barra Best voyages around the Northern Irish coastline, encountering some rough weather even he had not foreseen before seeking sanctuary at the Copeland Islands.
8.30	Dad's Army. The platoon takes part in an exercise with the regular army and everything goes well – until Mainwaring assumes the role of an enemy agent on the run. (R)
9.00	The Private Life of the Royal Academy. Documentary shot over five years at the institution – celebrating its 250th anniversary this year – offering an insight into one of Britain's most enduring cultural establishments.
10.20	FILM: My Old Lady (2014). A penniless New Yorker hopes to sell his dead father's flat in Paris, but finds it has an eccentric, elderly tenant. Comedy drama, starring Maggie Smith and Kevin Kline.
12.00	Versailles. (R)
12.55	Versailles. (R)
1.50	Versailles. (R)
2.45	Versailles. (R)
3.40	This Is BBC2.



Ninja Warrior UK
6.30pm
Competitors from across the UK test their strength, speed and courage in the semi-final of the obstacle-course challenge, hosted by Ben Shephard, Rochelle Humes and Chris Kamara.

ITV	
6.00	CITV: Sooty 6.10 Grizzly Tales for Gruesome Kids 6.20 Grizzly Tales for Gruesome Kids 6.35 Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures 6.45 Super 4 6.55 Signed Stories: Share a Story 7.00 Star Wars Freemaker Adventures 7.20 The Tom and Jerry Show 7.30 Teen Titans Go! 7.45 Adventure Time 8.00 Thunderbirds Are Go
8.25	ITV News.
8.30	Zoe Ball on Saturday. With Robert Webb, Jayde Adams and Una Healy.
9.25	James Martin's Saturday Morning. The TV chef is joined by former BBC royal correspondent Jennie Bond, food writer Jonathan Pang and chef Nick Nairn, with dishes including "angry" lobster and roast crown of lamb.
11.20	Countrywise. The island of Lundy, a pea harvest and a unique mussel farm. (R)
11.50	ITV News and Weather; Weather.
12.00	Little Big Shots. Featuring displays of dancing and hen racing. (R)
1.00	Midsomer Murders. A land dispute leads to murder during a cowboy fair run by the Wild West Society of a Midsomer village. Guest starring Kenneth Cranham, with John Nettles and Jason Hughes. (R)
3.00	Ninja Warrior UK. With Gethin Jones, Jenni Falconer and Josh Cuthbert. (R)
4.00	Tipping Point: Lucky Stars. With Jimmy Carr, David Haye and Charlotte Crosby. (R)
5.00	The Chase. Quiz show, hosted by Bradley Walsh. (R)
6.00	ITV News and Weather.
6.15	ITV News Central; Weather.
6.30	Ninja Warrior UK. Competitors from across the UK test their strength, speed and courage in the semi-final of the obstacle-course challenge, hosted by Ben Shephard, Rochelle Humes and Chris Kamara.
7.30	Harry Hill's Alien Fun Capsule. Madcap panel show presented by the comedian, who presides over two teams nominally tasked with saving planet Earth from any potential alien invasion.
8.00	Britain's Got Talent. Ant and Dec host the fifth heat of the talent search, which sees a wide variety of acts compete for the chance to win a cash prize and a slot at the Royal Variety Performance.
9.20	The Keith & Paddy Picture Show. Keith Lemon and Paddy McGuinness re-create James Cameron's Terminator 2: Judgment Day, joined by an all-star cast including Jaime Winstone, Rick Astley and Hank Osasuna. Terminator 2: Judgment Day follows after the news.
9.50	ITV News and Weather; Weather.
10.05	FILM: Terminator 2: Judgment Day (1991). A cyborg is sent back in time to protect the future saviour of the human race from a shape-changing assassin. Sci-fi adventure sequel, with Arnold Schwarzenegger and Linda Hamilton.
12.30	Jackpot247. Viewers get the chance to participate in live interactive gaming from the comfort of their sofas.
3.00	Babushka. Game show hosted by Rylan Clark-Neal in which contestants open a set of giant Russian nesting dolls, with some empty and others containing prizes up to £10,000. (R)
3.50	ITV Nightscreen.



When Harry Met Meghan: A Royal Romance
7pm
Interviews with friends, colleagues and royal experts shed light on the relationship between US actress Meghan Markle and Prince Harry.

Channel 4	
6.15	Motor Sport: Mini Challenge. Action from Corby Speedbowl.
6.45	The King of Queens. The gang goes paintballing. Ricki Lake guest stars. (R)
7.10	The King of Queens. Deacon lies to his wife. (R)
7.35	Everybody Loves Raymond. A piano brings back memories. (R)
8.00	Everybody Loves Raymond. Ray's golfing form falters. (R)
8.30	Everybody Loves Raymond. Ray discovers his parents planned to divorce when he was a child. (R)
9.00	Frasier. Martin visits a retirement home. (R)
9.30	Frasier. Mel tries to embarrass Niles. (R)
10.00	Frasier. Niles pretends to be Mel's husband. (R)
10.30	The Big Bang Theory. Sheldon tries to conceal his friendship with Penny from Leonard. (R)
11.00	The Big Bang Theory. Sheldon invites a famous physicist to the flat. (R)
11.25	The Big Bang Theory. The origins of Sheldon and Leonard's friendship are revealed. (R)
11.55	The Simpsons. Homer forms a security group. (R)
12.25	The Simpsons. Bart is hailed as a child genius. (R)
12.55	The Simpsons. Homer abuses the internet. (R)
1.25	Come Dine with Me. Four strangers from Nottingham, Derby and Leicester take part. (R)
2.30	A Place in the Sun: Winter Sun. A couple from Brighton look for a home in Almeria, Spain. (R)
3.00	A Place in the Sun: Winter Sun. A couple looking to buy a holiday home in Queensland, Australia. (R)
4.00	Location, Location, Location. House-hunting in the Peak District. (R)
5.00	Formula 1: Spanish Grand Prix Qualifying Highlights. Action from the fifth round of the season.
6.30	Channel 4 News.
7.00	When Harry Met Meghan: A Royal Romance. Interviews with friends, colleagues and royal experts shed light on the relationship between US actress Meghan Markle and Prince Harry, whose wedding takes place next weekend.
8.00	Britain's Most Historic Towns. Alice Roberts reveals the history of Belfast, visiting the shipyards that built the Titanic and getting locked up in the notorious Crumlin Road gaol. Last in the series.
9.00	FILM: Cowboys & Aliens (2011). A mysterious stranger leads the people of a Wild-West town to fight back against an invasion from another world. Sci-fi Western, with Daniel Craig and Harrison Ford.
11.15	FILM: 2 Guns (2013). Two undercover agents become fugitives after a disastrous sting, but each thinks the other is a real criminal. Action adventure, starring Denzel Washington and Mark Wahlberg.
1.15	Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA. (R)
2.05	Hollyoaks. (R)
4.15	Gok's Fill Your House for Free. (R)
5.10	Kirstie's Vintage Gems. (R)
5.25	Fifteen to One. (R)



Live Boxing
9pm
Sam Sexton v Hughie Fury. All of the action and live coverage from the bout for the British Heavyweight Title, which takes place at Bolton Whites Hotel.

Channel 5	
6.00	Milkshake!: Little Princess 6.10 Wissper 6.20 Puppy Cat 6.30 Milkshake! Monkey 6.35 The Secret Life of Puppies 6.40 Mofy 6.45 Simon 6.50 Peppa Pig 7.00 Paw Patrol 7.10 Thomas & Friends 7.20 Fireman Sam 7.35 Ollie the Little White Van 7.45 Rusty Rivets 8.00 Paw Patrol 8.15 Nella the Princess Knight 8.30 Noddy: Toyland Detective 8.50 Floogals 9.00 Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom 9.15 Shimmer and Shine 9.30 Digby Dragon 9.45 Peppa Pig 9.55 Peppa Pig
10.05	Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. Kavaxas threatens to destroy the world. (R)
10.30	The Gadget Show. A special edition dedicated to the fastest tech in the world. (R)
11.25	Police Interceptors. Liam investigates a gang of suspected drug dealers from Nottingham. (R)
12.25	Police Interceptors. Tim and Tom team up with Merseyside police to raid a house in Liverpool. (R)
1.20	Police Interceptors. Dog handler Bob hunts down a suspected knifeman. (R)
2.20	The Nightmarer Neighbour Next Door. Two neighbours who record each other's every move on CCTV. (R)
3.20	The Nightmarer Neighbour Next Door. A man in Cumbria complains about his neighbour's menagerie of birds. (R)
4.15	Nightmare Tenants: Get Out of My House. A tenant is found to have been running a business from a rented property. (R)
5.15	Bad Tenants, Rogue Landlords. A Mansfield woman whose friend stopped paying rent. (R)
6.10	Rich House, Poor House. The well-off Scaife-Lacys from Beverley in East Yorkshire trade places with the Flinthams, who live just six miles away in Hull, but are in the country's poorest 10 per cent. (R)
7.00	Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away! Agents Delroy and Kevin face the most challenging eviction of their careers, while Brian and Del chase £2,000 worth of debt owed by a business based in Kent. (R)
8.00	Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away! Agents Delroy and Kevin face a web of deceit in an Italian delicatessen, while Steve and Paul must evict a tenant who has not paid her rent for over 18 months. (R)
8.55	5 News Weekend.
9.00	Live Boxing. Sam Sexton v Hughie Fury. Coverage of the bout for the British Heavyweight Title, which takes place at Bolton Whites Hotel.
11.15	When Eurovision Goes Horribly Wrong. Angela Rippon presents a guide to the song contest's most disastrous moments, featuring contributions from past performers including Dana, Sonia and Lindsay Dracass. (R)
1.55	SuperCasino. Live interactive gaming.
3.10	GPs: Behind Closed Doors. A musician who is worried about his hearing. (R)
4.00	Britain's Great Cathedrals with Tony Robinson. (R)
4.45	House Doctor. (R)
5.10	Wildlife SOS. (R)
5.35	Wildlife SOS. (R)

The Ticket

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Britain's Fat Fight with Hugh Fearnley-Whittingstall

1.15pm

Hugh turns his attention to junk food marketing techniques, and heads to a Conservative Party Conference, where he has been invited to speak about obesity.



Flog It!

5.30pm

Members of the public gather at the Imperial War Museum Duxford in Cambridgeshire to present their antiques to James Lewis and Christina Trevanion..



Little Big Shots

7pm

Dawn French hosts a variety show featuring some of the world's most talented children, including a blind pianist and displays of martial arts and pizza tossing.



Bake Off: The Professionals

8pm

Cherish Finden and Benoit Blin put the teams to the test making layered slices, including tiramisu, roulade praline slices and enough croquebouches to serve 36 people.



Kylie at 50: Especially For You

9pm

Profile of the singer, to coincide with the 30th anniversary of her debut single. The programme features archive footage of TV appearances and personal home videos.

BBC1

- 6.00 **Breakfast.**
- 9.00 **The Andrew Marr Show.**
- 10.00 **The Big Questions.** Nicky Campbell presents moral and religious discussions on topical issues live from Heartlands Academy, Birmingham.
- 11.00 **Sunday Politics West Midlands.** The week's events at Westminster, presented by Sarah Smith. Including a regional round-up.
- 12.15 **Bargain Hunt.** Thomas Plant presents as two teams of married couples head to the Norfolk Antiques Fair to buy three items they hope will make the most profit at auction in Diss. (R)
- 1.00 **BBC News.**
- 1.15 **Britain's Fat Fight with Hugh Fearnley-Whittingstall.** Hugh turns his attention to junk food marketing techniques, and heads to a Conservative Party Conference, where he has been invited to speak about obesity. Last in the series. (R)
- 2.15 **Lifeline.** Chris Packham presents an appeal on behalf of Dogs for Good, which trains assistance dogs for people with physical disabilities and children with autism.
- 2.25 **Points of View.** Jeremy Vine presents a selection of viewers' comments on BBC shows, a chance to see memorable clips, and an insight into what goes on behind the scenes of new programmes.
- 2.40 **Songs of Praise.** Aled Jones hosts the final of Young Choir of the Year, with senior and junior choirs performing their choices of inspirational song.
- 3.20 **Britain's Best Home Cook.** The contestants create their ultimate fish dish displaying their individual home cooking style and then invent a sweet or savoury meal with squash or rice as the key ingredient. (R)
- 4.20 **Final Score.** Jason Mohammad presents a round-up of the classified results and this afternoon's news from the Premier League and Scotland.
- 5.30 **BBC News.**
- 5.45 **Midlands Today: Weather.**
- 6.00 **The A to Z of the RHS Chelsea Flower Show.** Jennifer Saunders presents a guide to the 105-year history of the event, while Adam Frost shares his memories of being involved in the show as both a designer and a presenter.
- 7.00 **Countryfile.** Rural reports from Hampshire, including the use of locally sourced timber, the reintroduction of oysters to the Solent, and an innovative project to tackle coastal erosion.
- 8.00 **British Academy Television Awards 2018.** Sue Perkins hosts the awards ceremony from London's Royal Festival Hall. The shows nominated for awards include Black Mirror, Line of Duty, The Crown and Three Girls.
- 10.00 **BBC News.**
- 10.20 **Midlands Today: Weather.**
- 10.30 **Match of the Day.** Gary Lineker presents highlights of the final round of Premier League fixtures, including Huddersfield Town v Arsenal, Burnley v Bournemouth and Swansea City v Stoke City.
- 12.10 **The Women's Football Show.**
- 12.45 **Weather for the Week Ahead.**
- 12.50 **BBC News.**

BBC2

- 6.05 **Glorious Gardens from Above.** Christine Walkden sails into Wales in a hot-air balloon. (R)
- 6.50 **Life in a Cottage Garden with Carol Klein.** The horticulturist harvests seeds. (R)
- 7.20 **Gardeners' World.** A visit to the RHS Malvern Spring Festival. (R)
- 8.20 **Countryfile.** Anita Rani is put through her paces with a Mountain Rescue team. (R)
- 9.15 **The Beechgrove Garden.** Jim McColl plants vegetables using the no-dig method.
- 9.45 **Saturday Kitchen Best Bites.** Matt Tebbutt presents highlights of the series.
- 11.15 **Spring Kitchen with Tom Kerridge.** With guests Gaby Roslin and Daniel Clifford. (R)
- 12.00 **Athletics: Diamond League Shanghai Highlights.** The second Diamond League event of the season from Shanghai.
- 1.00 **Triathlon World Series: Yokohama.** The third round of the ITU World Triathlon Series in Yokohama.
- 3.00 **Live Challenge Cup Rugby League.** Toronto Wolfpack v Warrington Wolves (Kick-off 3.30pm).
- 5.30 **Flog It!** From the Imperial War Museum Duxford in Cambridgeshire. (R)
- 6.00 **FILM: Tomorrowland: A World Beyond (2015).** Premiere. A gifted teenage inventor discovers a mysterious futuristic world, and attempts to uncover its secrets. Fantasy adventure, starring George Clooney and Britt Robertson.
- 8.00 **Neanderthals: Meet Your Ancestors.** Part one of two. Archaeologist Ella Al-Shamahi and actor Andy Serkis bring the prehistoric humans back to life through animation, revealing surprising similarities to modern humans.
- 9.00 **Burma with Simon Reeve.** Part one of two. Documentary exploring the country in the aftermath of the humanitarian crisis in which thousands of Rohingya Muslims were driven from their homes by the military.
- 10.00 **Atlanta.** New series. A man sees an opportunity to turn his life around by helping his cousin become a rap star. Comedy drama, starring Donald Glover and Brian Tyree Henry.
- 10.25 **Atlanta.** The cousins are arrested after the shooting and while Paper Boi posts bail quickly, Earn is left at the station waiting to be processed along with everyone else arrested overnight.
- 10.50 **Later Weekend with Jools Holland.** New series. Return of the live music programme, featuring performances by Snow Patrol, Shame, Tower of Power, Jade Bird, Bettye Lavette and Plan B.
- 11.50 **Versailles.** The traitor changes tactics and strikes at those closest to Louis – with deadly consequences. Meanwhile, Sophie stubbornly risks angering Marchal. (R)
- 12.45 **Versailles.** (R)
- 1.40 **Versailles.** (R)
- 2.35 **Sign Zone: Question Time.** Topical debate from Kettering, Northamptonshire. (R)
- 3.35 **Sign Zone: Holby City.** (R)
- 4.35 **This Is BBC2.** Preview of upcoming programmes.

ITV

- 6.00 **CITV: Sooty 6.10 Grizzly Tales for Gruesome Kids 6.20 Grizzly Tales for Gruesome Kids 6.35 Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures 6.45 Super 4 6.55 Signed Stories: Share a Story 7.00 Thunderbirds Are Go 7.25 The Tom and Jerry Show 7.30 Teen Titans Go! 7.45 Adventure Time 8.00 The Haunted Hathaways**
- 8.25 **ITV News.**
- 8.30 **Zoe Ball on Sunday.** With guests Joel Dommett and Amanda Abbington.
- 9.25 **Love Your Garden.** Transforming a Gloucestershire garden into an enchanted woodland. (R)
- 10.00 **Peston on Sunday.** Political magazine.
- 11.00 **Britain's Got Talent.** Ant and Dec host the fifth heat of the nationwide talent search. (R)
- 12.15 **Britain's Got More Talent.** Stephen Mulhern hosts the companion show to the talent competition. (R)
- 1.15 **ITV News and Weather: Weather.**
- 1.30 **Ninja Warrior UK.** Obstacle-course challenge, with Ben Shephard, Rochelle Humes and Chris Kamara. (R)
- 2.30 **Paul O'Grady: For the Love of Dogs – India.** Paul helps a traumatised dog that desperately needs to find a home. (R)
- 3.00 **Change Your Tune.** Baz Ashmawy hosts the musical game show.
- 4.00 **Tipping Point: Lucky Stars.** With contestants Rufus Hound, Nadia Sawalha and JB Gill. (R)
- 5.00 **The Chase Celebrity Special.** With Nina Wadia, Linford Christie, Sarah Harding and Tiger Drew-Honey. (R)
- 6.00 **Harry Hill's Alien Fun Capsule.** Madcap panel show presented by the comedian, who presides over two teams nominally tasked with saving planet Earth from any potential alien invasion. (R)
- 6.30 **ITV News and Weather.**
- 6.45 **ITV News Central: Weather.**
- 7.00 **Little Big Shots.** Dawn French hosts a variety show featuring some of the world's most talented children, including a blind pianist and displays of martial arts and pizza tossing.
- 8.00 **Midsomer Murders.** Barnaby and Winter join forces with a new pathologist to investigate when a woman slips away from a Jane Austen re-enactment, only to be stabbed to death in the woods.
- 10.00 **ITV News and Weather: Weather.**
- 10.20 **Peston on Sunday.** Political magazine, presented by Robert Peston, with Allegra Stratton. (R)
- 11.20 **This Time Next Year.** Davina McCall meets an 11-year-old meningitis survivor hoping to finally have hands, and a young couple with fertility complications who dream of starting a family. (R)
- 12.15 **Great Art.** The work of British artist David Hockney. (R)
- 1.05 **Jackpot247.** Viewers get the chance to participate in live interactive gaming from the comfort of their sofas, with a mix of roulette-wheel spins and lively chat from the presenting team.
- 3.00 **Motorsport UK.** Richard John Neil presents action from Brands Hatch. (R)
- 3.50 **British Superbike Championship Highlights.** Action from Oulton Park. (R)
- 4.40 **ITV Nightscreen.**
- 5.05 **The Jeremy Kyle Show.** (R)

Channel 4

- 6.15 **The King of Queens.** Carrie wonders about her marriage. (R)
- 6.40 **The King of Queens.** Doug dreams about appearing in TV shows. (R)
- 7.05 **Everybody Loves Raymond.** Ray is persuaded to work from home. (R)
- 7.30 **Everybody Loves Raymond.** Debra starts writing a children's book. (R)
- 7.55 **Everybody Loves Raymond.** Ray buys Frank an aquarium. (R)
- 8.25 **Eat the Week.** Simon Rimmer rises to the challenges of a family with ideas for one-pot wonders. (R)
- 9.30 **Sunday Brunch.** With guests Eddie Marsan, Tom Goodman-Hill, Ruth Bradley and Carol Vorderman.
- 12.30 **Bake Off: The Professionals.** Professional duos from across the UK go head to head. (R)
- 1.30 **The Simpsons.** Bart sees into the future. (R)
- 2.00 **The Simpsons.** Barney gives up alcohol. (R)
- 2.30 **FILM: Cheaper By the Dozen (2003).** Family comedy remake, starring Steve Martin.
- 4.25 **Extreme Cake Makers: Royal Wedding Special.** Elite bakers and sugarcraft specialists create royal wedding themed cakes.
- 5.30 **Channel 4 News.**
- 6.00 **Formula 1: Spanish Grand Prix Highlights.** Steve Jones and David Coulthard present action from the fifth round of the season at the Circuit de Catalunya in Barcelona, where Lewis Hamilton was the winner last year.
- 8.00 **Bake Off: The Professionals.** Cherish Finden and Benoit Blin put the teams to the test making layered slices, including tiramisu, roulade praline slices and enough croquebouches to serve 36 people.
- 9.00 **FILM: Eddie the Eagle (2016).** Premiere. Biopic of British underdog ski jumper Eddie Edwards, who became a national sensation during the 1988 Winter Olympics. Starring Taron Egerton and Hugh Jackman.
- 11.05 **8 Out of 10 Cats Does Countdown.** Jimmy Carr hosts the words-and-numbers panel game, which sees Sean Lock and Seann Walsh taking on guest captain Joe Wilkinson and Danny Dyer, with Bill Bailey in Dictionary Corner. (R)
- 12.05 **FILM: Good People (2014).** A couple in financial difficulties find a bag of money and take it for themselves, but soon have cause to regret it. Crime thriller, starring James Franco and Kate Hudson.
- 1.35 **Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA.** Gordon Ramsay visits a failing Greek restaurant in Queens, New York. (R)
- 2.25 **When Harry Met Meghan: A Royal Romance.** Interviews with friends, colleagues and royal experts shed light on the relationship between US actress Meghan Markle and Prince Harry, whose wedding takes place next weekend. (R)
- 3.20 **Gok's Fill Your House for Free.** The host comes to the aid of Lancaster couple Hannah and Alex, whose plans to decorate their house from top to bottom were thrown into disarray by the arrival of their daughter. (R)
- 4.15 **Best Laid Plans.** Charlie Luxton faces one of his biggest builds to date. (R)

Channel 5

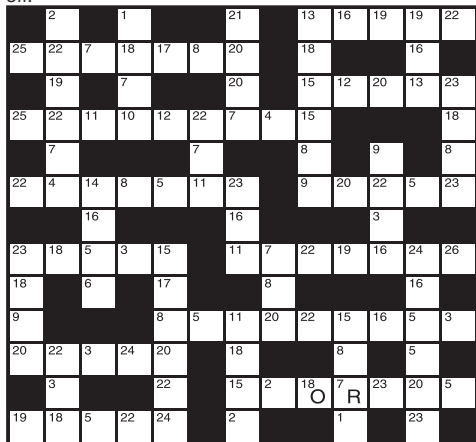
- 6.00 **Milkshake!: Little Princess 6.10 Wissper 6.20 Poppy Cat 6.30 Milkshake! Monkey 6.35 The Secret Life of Puppies 6.40 Mofy 6.45 Simon 6.50 Peppa Pig 7.00 Paw Patrol 7.10 Thomas & Friends 7.25 Fireman Sam 7.35 Olly the Little White Van 7.45 Rusty Rivets 8.00 Paw Patrol 8.15 Nella the Princess Knight 8.30 Noddy: Toyland Detective 8.50 Floogals 9.00 Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom 9.10 Shimmer and Shine 9.30 Digby Dragon 9.45 Peppa Pig 9.55 Peppa Pig**
- 10.00 **Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles.** Part one of two. Mona Lisa arrives on Earth, just ahead of the Newtralizer's return. (R)
- 10.30 **Dogs Make You Laugh Out Loud.** The internet's most popular videos featuring dogs. (R)
- 11.00 **Budgies Make You Laugh Out Loud.** Internet clips featuring the antics of budgies and other birds.
- 11.55 **Penguins Make You Laugh Out Loud.** The flightless birds at their funniest. (R)
- 12.55 **Puppies Make You Laugh Out Loud 2.** Compilation of internet videos featuring puppies. (R)
- 1.55 **Naughty Dogs Make You Laugh Out Loud.** Internet videos featuring dogs. (R)
- 2.50 **FILM: Ace Ventura: When Nature Calls (1995).** Comedy sequel, starring Jim Carrey.
- 3.50 **5 News Update.**
- 3.55 **FILM: Ace Ventura: When Nature Calls (1995).** Concluded.
- 4.40 **FILM: Garfield (2004).** Family comedy, with the voice of Bill Murray.
- 6.10 **Kittens Make You Laugh Out Loud.** Internet videos featuring kittens doing bizarre and humorous things. (R)
- 7.00 **Kitten's Got Talent.** Internet clips of cats performing physical feats or demonstrating lightning reactions, sporting and athletic skills, super intelligence or bravery. (R)
- 8.00 **Psycho Pussies: When Cats Attack.** Documentary using online clips and personal accounts to explore the dangerous side of the domestic feline, drawing parallels between big cats and their tame cousins. (R)
- 8.55 **5 News Weekend.**
- 9.00 **Kylie at 50: Especially For You.** Profile of the singer, to coincide with the 30th anniversary of her debut single. The programme features archive footage of TV appearances and personal home videos.
- 10.35 **FILM: Muriel's Wedding (1994).** A downtrodden Abba-obsessed woman heads for the bright lights of Sydney to fulfil her dreams of the perfect wedding. Comedy, with Toni Collette, Bill Hunter and Rachel Griffiths.
- 12.40 **Funniest Fails, Falls & Flops.** (R)
- 1.00 **SuperCasino.** Live interactive gaming.
- 3.10 **The Yorkshire Vet.** Julian Norton is called out to a poorly trekking llama. (R)
- 4.00 **Naughty Dogs Make You Laugh Out Loud.** Internet videos featuring dogs. (R)
- 4.45 **House Doctor.** Home improvement highlights from the series. (R)
- 5.10 **Wildlife SOS.** (R)
- 5.35 **Wildlife SOS.** (R)

The Ticket

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Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.



LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Z	O	J	N	G	I	B	E	L	W	U	A	X
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
H	S	M	C	K	Y	Q	P	T	V	R	D	F

1	14
2	15
3	16
4	17
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13	26

Double Crossword

Choose either quick or cryptic clues - both fit the same grid.

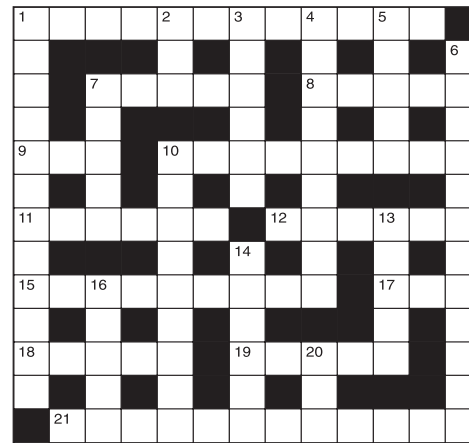
Cryptic Clues:

Across

- Where they are well-endowed to deal with complaints? (6,6)
- Some support for the workers (5)
- A quaintly pleasing French accent (5)
- Finished up with paid help (3)
- Finished after only half the distance and stretched out (9)
- Country hat (6)
- Hang about as many fish (6)
- Little known, but giving one credit (9)
- No alternative (3)
- One is about to make a racket (5)
- Put a watch on (5)
- Condenses Enid's solo act, perhaps (12)

Down

- Successor clearly seen (4,8)
- Food and drink (3)
- Don't agree it's rubbish (6)
- Deadlock with an old friend (9)
- Drinks and a sandwich (5)
- A quality we don't care to show (12)
- Battle for the chairman's seat? (5)
- Bullies those who work around the pit (9)
- Ridiculed a conductor, we hear (5)
- He has a part in a Shakespeare play, but may be fired (6)
- The atmosphere in a small company may be capital (5)
- It's not sensible to stop up (3)



Quick Clues:

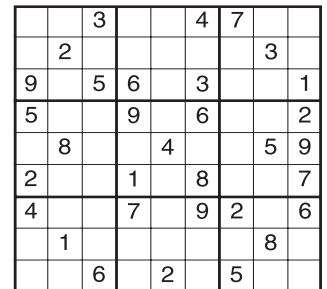
Across

- U.S. port (3,9)
- Later (5)
- Coach (5)
- Fasten (3)
- Perfume (9)
- One who goes naked (6)
- Amend (6)
- Tomb (9)
- Tavern (3)
- Boxing ring (5)
- Sea (5)
- In various places (4,3,5)

Down

- Meteor (8,4)
- Decay (3)
- Usual (6)
- Interpose (9)
- Fetter (5)
- Endless (12)
- In front (5)
- Continuous shooting (9)
- Constellation (5)
- Flung (6)
- Portion (5)
- Consume (3)

Sudoku



Fill in the grid above so that every column, every row and each of the 3x3 boxes contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS >

3	2	8	5	1	9	7	4	6
1	4	7	6	3	2	8	9	5
9	5	6	4	7	8	1	3	2
5	3	9	7	8	1	2	6	4
4	7	2	9	5	6	3	1	8
6	8	1	2	4	3	9	5	7
2	9	5	3	6	7	4	8	1
8	6	3	1	2	4	5	7	9
7	1	4	8	9	5	6	2	3

LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS:
CRYPTIC - Across: 4 Fairway; 8 Reason; 9 Upstart; 10 Tuscan; 11 Reeled; 12 Organdie; 18 Fatalist; 20 Manager; 21 Skater; 22 Straits; 23 Intone; 24 Addenda. Down: 1 Oration; 2 Passage; 3 Domain; 5 Apparent; 6 Rafter; 7 Agreed; 13 Defeated; 14 Fiction; 15 Started; 16 Matted; 17 Garage; 19 Asking.
QUICK - Across: 4 Variety; 8 Opened; 9 Account; 10 Cougar; 11 Spined; 12 Penitent; 18 Commence; 20 Colour; 21 Struck; 22 Comical; 23 Detain; 24 Lengthy. Down: 1 Concept; 2 Piquant; 3 Depart; 5 Accustom; 6 Irony; 7 Tinged; 13 Encroach; 14 Inhuman; 15 Weakens; 16 Morose; 17 Coming; 19 Mutter.

Quiz

- In the Arabian Nights, how many journeys did Sinbad make?
- What is the administrative capital of Bolivia?
- Which US state is nicknamed the Beehive State?
- What is the Lord Chancellor's seat in the House of Lords called?
- What is the capital of Rwanda?
- Which drug yields both morphine and codeine?
- Which architect designed London's Chelsea Hospital?
- What is the longest river in Europe?
- Who was the Roman god of fire and destruction?
- Which Canadian territory's capital is Whitehorse?

Last week's solutions:

Quiz: 1 Kentucky Derby; 2 Pandora; 3 Assyrian;

4 A lizard; 5 Fremantle; 6 Judo; 7 Tree; 8 US

Independence; 9 Zaire; 10 Ceefax.

Niner: MANGROVES

Niner

Each number from 1 to 9 represents a different letter. Solve the clues and insert the letters in the appropriate squares to discover a word which uses all nine letters.

2785328
6422
123496

gives a British city,
gives a second British city,
gives a British town.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

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Concord College is England's premier co-educational international boarding school set in the heart of the Shropshire countryside, with 580 students aged 13-19. With over 40 nationalities represented amongst our students, we enjoy a wonderfully diverse environment with a strong community feel and decency, trust and respect at our core. All employees play an important part in providing all that is required for the students in our care. If you are looking for an opportunity to work as part of a great team in a beautiful setting with first class facilities, excellent working conditions and rates of pay, plus many additional benefits, we currently have the following vacancies:

DOMESTIC ASSISTANT

Our Domestic Assistants play a key role in the day-to-day care of our facilities, maintaining the high standards that are required in cleanliness and hygiene for the benefit of all students, staff and visitors. Each team member takes responsibility for a specific area, to aid motivation and increase job satisfaction, and everyone works under the care and guidance of our Domestic Services Manager and Assistant. We currently have a vacancy working either 4.00pm - 8.00pm or 5.00pm - 8.00pm Monday to Friday (15 or 20 hours per week). Previous experience in a similar role would be helpful, although full training will be given. The ability to deliver a service to a high standard will be essential.

SIMS OFFICER (MATERNITY COVER)

We are seeking a SIMS Officer to cover maternity leave who will have overall responsibility for SIMS at Concord College, managing all data entered on to the system and meeting all reporting requirements, both internal and external in line with guidelines set out by the Department for Education. This is a key role and requires knowledge and experience of using SIMS in an education setting, excellent IT skills, in particular, advanced Excel skills to manipulate data and the ability to present complex data in a range of formats. Hours of work will be 35 hours per week and the start date is anticipated to be June 2018. Salary is negotiable, dependent on qualifications and experience.

RELIEF NIGHT SECURITY STAFF

We require casual Relief Night Security Officers (male or female) for security and/or pastoral duties, to provide holiday and sickness absence cover for our Night Security staff who work on a rota basis to provide cover seven nights per week. Duties will involve the security of college buildings and grounds as well as working with residential staff in the provision of student pastoral care. Previous experience of a security role and the ability to relate to young people of all nationalities and religions will be required.

In addition to competitive salaries for the above posts, other benefits include the provision of a meal when on duty (where applicable), an attractive uniform (where applicable), a defined contribution pension scheme, income protection and life assurance schemes and a childcare voucher scheme.

The closing date for applications for the above posts is **midday Monday 14 May 2018.**

Further information on the above posts, together with application forms, are available either on our website:

www.concordcollegeuk.com, or from our HR Officer, Miss Nicola Fox: n.fox@concordcollege.org.uk tel: 01694 731631. Please note CVs will only be accepted if submitted with a fully completed and detailed application form.

Concord College, Acton Burnell, Shrewsbury, Shropshire, SY5 7PF.

Concord College is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people. Child protection screening is undertaken which includes checks with past employers and the Disclosure and Barring Service.



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The contracted hours will be on a flexible basis (to suit the successful candidate) with the potential to work from home.

At least five years' experience of working in a similar role is desirable with an A level English qualification or equivalent. There will be an element of flexibility required for this role providing support at Trustees' meetings. Full Clerk training can be provided.

Further details about this vacancy and an application form are available on the school website. (Please note we do not accept CVs).

If you have any other queries, please email Julia Hipkiss, HR Administrator on hipkiss.j@marshschool.net or ring her on 01691 664417.

Closing date for applications is **midnight on Thursday 17th May 2018.** Interviews are to be held **w/c 21st May 2018.**

This school is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. The successful applicant will be subject to an enhanced disclosure from the CRB.

Renault Koleos is smooth and refined

By Sharon Walters

UK roads are awash with SUVs, in fact I would say we have been hit by a tsunami of the cars in a market that seems to have another one added each week.

So how do you decide which one to opt for? Well that will depend on your pocket, safety and specification and even perhaps the badge. Many buyers are brand-loyal and won't even take a test drive in a marque they just don't like or appreciate.

And that's a shame because there may just be another SUV out there that would suit their needs so much better. Get a shopping list of what you need and can afford, take a good look around and then go for a test drive. The drive won't cost you anything and if the salesman gets too pushy you can walk away!

One I would suggest you take a look at is the Renault Koleos – a car that's more towards the top end of the mid SUV category.

Prices start at £27,500 making it competitive against much of the opposition.

Some of you may remember the Koleos when it was first launched in the UK – back in 2007. It sank in the market barely making a ripple. We just didn't like it although it survived in Europe until 2015.

This latest version, which arrived last year, is not really a replacement, it bears no resemblance to the plain and uninspiring 2007 version.

It has a powerful stance that sets it apart from its rivals, and takes Renault design cues from other C- and D-segment models such as the Mégane and Talisman with Renault's signature C-shaped LED Daytime Running Lights (DRL) at the front and always-illuminated horizontal DRLs.



The cabin is comfortable and spacious

The Koleos provides a comfortable, spacious and clear cabin thanks to its opening panoramic sunroof and impressive rear passenger leg room which is amongst the best-in-class thanks to its five-seat architecture.

There's a choice of three trim levels and two diesel engines – a dCi 130 with a sixspeed manual transmission and a dCi 175 with either the manual or a seven-speed Auto X-Tronic transmission, both with ALL-MODE 4x4 four-wheel drive. I drove the latter and really appreciated the rugged capability of an SUV with the refinement of a large executive saloon. Plus the smooth and quick to react auto box and the car-like ride which took in all road surfaces with comfort.

The dCi 175 is the most powerful diesel engine in the range with 380Nm of torque at 2,000 rpm and in the manual transmission provides fuel economy of up to 50.4 mpg (Combined Cycle), compared with 47.9mpg for the Auto X-Tronic, an mpg I came very close to achieving. The manual's CO2



It has a powerful stance that sets it apart from its rivals, and takes Renault design cues from other C- and D-segment models

emissions are 148g/km and the Auto X-Tronic has CO2 emissions of 156g/km.

Standard equipment across the range includes Renault's advanced driver assistance systems, such as Advanced Emergency Braking System (AEBS), Blind Spot Warning, Lane Departure Warning, Over-speed Prevention with Traffic Sign Recognition and Hill Start Assist have been applied across the line-up. A rear parking camera with front and rear parking sensors is also included on all versions as well as an electrochromic rear mirror.

Standard safety features include ABS with

Electronic Brake-force Distribution, ESC (Electronic Stability Control) with traction and understeer control, cruise control, speed limiter, Hill Start Assist, six airbags, side impact protection bars and ISOFIX child-seat mounting points.

There's an airy feel to the cabin thanks to the panoramic sunroof and my mid range Signature trim had black leather upholstery, extra tinted rear windows, ambient lighting, cup holders able to heat and cool drinks for front passengers and a central armrest with in-built cup holders in the rear. Automatic Dual-zone climate control, a Hands Free

Keycard and automatic lights and wipers are also standard.

Tech is not neglected and that includes four USB and two AUX ports, seven-inch touchscreen R-LINK2 multimedia system which includes satellite navigation with TomTom® LIVE traffic updates, Android Auto™ and Apple CarPlay™ smartphone replications, Western European mapping, Bluetooth audio streaming and Handsfree connectivity.

My trim had a whole lot more and options are not inordinately expensive.

Price as tested for the Signature dCi 175 4x4 X-Tronic, £36,210.

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Comfort is the new cool for Citroën's latest C4 Cactus



The film 'The Mug' showcases the busy morning routine of a father and his family

Citroën has revealed a new advertising campaign for the recently launched new C4 Cactus, the ultra-comfortable hatchback.

The campaign is inspired by people and their increasingly busy lives. The advert highlights all the benefits of Citroën's new suspension technology with Progressive Hydraulic Cushions™ (PHC™), which makes its European debut on the new C4 Cactus.

The film 'The Mug' showcases the busy morning routine of a father and his family. Eating breakfast, dropping the children off at school and going to

work. Caught up in the morning rush, the father forgets his coffee on the roof of the car. Due to the exceptional performance of Citroën's suspension with PHC™, the mug remains on the roof for his entire commute, which he then retrieves before rushing into the office. This campaign demonstrates the brand's 'Inspired By You' positioning, because 'Citroën knows that life is hectic enough'.

Benefitting from the Citroën Advanced Comfort® programme, the new C4 Cactus is the first car in the range with all of the Citroën

Advanced Comfort® features. The ultra-comfortable hatch is the first model in Europe to feature Citroën's suspension with Progressive Hydraulic Cushions™, which creates a 'flying carpet' effect. It is also the first model in the world to offer Advanced Comfort® seats featuring new high-density foam that improves seating comfort for both the driver and passengers. There are 12 driver assistance systems and three connectivity technologies available as well as a wide range of efficient engines.

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 <p>VAUXHALL CORSA 1.4 DESIGN ONLY 5,000 MILES, 3 DOOR, CD PLAYER, AIR CON, POWER STEERING, ELECTRIC WINDOWS, LOW INSURANCE, IMMACULATE CONDITION</p> <p>Buy this car, and drive away today from only £35 per week*. Call us on 0800 917 4622 quoting stock reference: S5940</p>	 <p>SEAT LEON 1.6 TDI S *** FREE TAX *** 5 DOOR, CD PLAYER, AIR CON, POWER STEERING, ELECTRIC WINDOWS, LOW INSURANCE</p> <p>Buy this car, and drive away today from only £35 per week*. Call us on 0800 917 4622 quoting stock reference: S5937</p>	 <p>PEUGEOT 208 208 1.4 HDI ALLURE *** FREE TAX *** 5 DOOR, ALLOYS, CD PLAYER, AIR CON, POWER STEERING, ELECTRIC WINDOWS, LOW INSURANCE</p> <p>Buy this car, and drive away today from only £29 per week*. Call us on 0800 917 4622 quoting stock reference: S5936</p>	 <p>FORD FIESTA 1.0 ZETEC S ECOBOOST *** FREE TAX *** 3 DOOR, MANUAL, ALLOYS, CD PLAYER, AIR CON, POWER STEERING, ELECTRIC WINDOWS, ONLY 16,000 MILES, IMMACULATE CONDITION</p> <p>Buy this car, and drive away today from only £45 per week*. Call us on 0800 917 4622 quoting stock reference: S5934</p>	 <p>FORD FIESTA 1.6 ST2 ECOBOOST 6 SPEED, MANUAL, PETROL, SMALL, RED</p> <p>Buy this car, and drive away today from only £49 per week*. Call us on 0800 917 4622 quoting stock reference: S5932</p>
 <p>VAUXHALL MOKKA 1.7 CDI 4x4 SE 6 SPEED DIESEL, 4x4, CD PLAYER, AIR CON, POWER STEERING, ELECTRIC WINDOWS, FULL HEATED LEATHER, IMMACULATE CONDITION, ONLY 17,000 MILES</p> <p>Buy this car, and drive away today from only £55 per week*. Call us on 0800 917 4622 quoting stock reference: S5928</p>	 <p>VAUXHALL MERIVA 1.4 EXCLUSIVE AUTO AUTOMATIC, 6 SPEED, CD PLAYER, AIR CON, POWER STEERING, ELECTRIC WINDOWS, IMMACULATE CONDITION,</p> <p>Buy this car, and drive away today from only £39 per week*. Call us on 0800 917 4622 quoting stock reference: S5821</p>	 <p>KIA SPORTAGE 1.6 GDI 2 MANUAL, 5 DOOR, 6 SPEED, ALLOYS, CD PLAYER, AIR CON, POWER STEERING, ELECTRIC WINDOWS, IMMACULATE CONDITION, FULL LEATHER</p> <p>Buy this car, and drive away today from only £55 per week*. Call us on 0800 917 4622 quoting stock reference: S5926</p>	 <p>HYUNDAI I20 1.2 ACTIVE MANUAL, 5 DOOR, ALLOYS, CD PLAYER, AIR CON, POWER STEERING, ELECTRIC WINDOWS, LOW INSURANCE</p> <p>Buy this car, and drive away today from only £29 per week*. Call us on 0800 917 4622 quoting stock reference: S5925</p>	 <p>CITROEN DS3 1.6 BLUEHDI *** FREE TAX *** MANUAL, 3 DOOR, 6 SPEED DIESEL, ALLOYS, CD PLAYER, AIR CON, POWER STEERING, ELECTRIC WINDOWS, IMMACULATE CONDITION</p> <p>Buy this car, and drive away today from only £42 per week*. Call us on 0800 917 4622 quoting stock reference: S5924</p>
 <p>FORD FIESTA 1.25 MANUAL ONLY 7,000 MILES, 5 DOOR, ALLOYS, CD PLAYER, AIR CON, POWER STEERING, ELECTRIC WINDOWS, LOW INSURANCE, IMMACULATE CONDITION</p> <p>Buy this car, and drive away today from only £39 per week*. Call us on 0800 917 4622 quoting stock reference: S5923</p>	 <p>FORD FIESTA 1.0 TDCI TITANIUM X *** FREE TAX *** 3 DOOR, ALLOYS, MANUAL, CD PLAYER, AIR CON, POWER STEERING, ELECTRIC WINDOWS, ONLY 28,000 MILES, IMMACULATE CONDITION</p> <p>Buy this car, and drive away today from only £35 per week*. Call us on 0800 917 4622 quoting stock reference: S5921</p>	 <p>FORD ECOSPORT 1.5 TDCI TITANIUM X ONLY £30 TAX PER YEAR, MANUAL, 5 DOOR, ALLOYS, CD PLAYER, AIR CON, POWER STEERING, ELECTRIC WINDOWS, IMMACULATE CONDITION</p> <p>Buy this car, and drive away today from only £49 per week*. Call us on 0800 917 4622 quoting stock reference: S5919</p>	 <p>FORD B-MAX 1.6 POWERSHIFT AUTOMATIC, ALLOYS, CD PLAYER, AIR CON, POWER STEERING, ELECTRIC WINDOWS, ONLY 24,000 MILES, IMMACULATE CONDITION</p> <p>Buy this car, and drive away today from only £39 per week*. Call us on 0800 917 4622 quoting stock reference: S5906</p>	 <p>NISSAN MICRA 1.0 ACENTA MANUAL, ONLY £20 TAX PER YEAR, WARRANTY TILL 2020, 13,000 MILES, ALLOYS, AIR CON, POWER STEERING, ELECTRIC WINDOWS, LOW INSURANCE, IMMACULATE CONDITION</p> <p>Buy this car, and drive away today from only £49 per week*. Call us on 0800 917 4622 quoting stock reference: S5905</p>
 <p>FORD FOCUS 1.6 TI-VCT TITANIUM AUTOMATIC, 6 SPEED, ALLOYS, CD PLAYER, AIR CON, POWER STEERING, ELECTRIC WINDOWS, IMMACULATE CONDITION</p> <p>Buy this car, and drive away today from only £39 per week*. Call us on 0800 917 4622 quoting stock reference: S5903</p>	 <p>HYUNDAI ix35 1.7 CRDI PREMIUM MANUAL, 6 SPEED DIESEL, ALLOYS, CD PLAYER, AIR CON, POWER STEERING, ELECTRIC WINDOWS, IMMACULATE CONDITION</p> <p>Buy this car, and drive away today from only £45 per week*. Call us on 0800 917 4622 quoting stock reference: S5902</p>	 <p>CITROEN C1 1.0 VTI *** FREE TAX *** 3 DOOR, MANUAL, ONLY 19,000 MILES, UPTO 60 MPG, CD PLAYER, AIR CON, POWER STEERING, ELECTRIC WINDOWS, LOW INSURANCE,</p> <p>Buy this car, and drive away today from only £27 per week*. Call us on 0800 917 4622 quoting stock reference: S5773</p>	 <p>TOYOTA YARIS 1.4 D-4D ICON *** FREE TAX *** 6 SPEED DIESEL, MANUAL, ALLOYS, CD PLAYER, AIR CON, POWER STEERING, ELECTRIC WINDOWS, LOW INSURANCE, IMMACULATE CONDITION</p> <p>Buy this car, and drive away today from only £39 per week*. Call us on 0800 917 4622 quoting stock reference: S5823</p>	 <p>PEUGEOT 108 1.0 ACTIVE *** FREE TAX *** ONLY 11,000 MILES, MANUAL, AIR CON, POWER STEERING, ELECTRIC WINDOWS, LOW INSURANCE,</p> <p>Buy this car, and drive away today from only £29 per week*. Call us on 0800 917 4622 quoting stock reference: S5829</p>
 <p>VAUXHALL CORSA 1.4i SRi VX-LINE 3 DOOR, ALLOYS, CD PLAYER, AIR CON, MANUAL, POWER STEERING, ELECTRIC WINDOWS, STILL UNDER VAUXHALL WARRANTY, LOW INSURANCE, IMMACULATE CONDITION</p> <p>Buy this car, and drive away today from only £35 per week*. Call us on 0800 917 4622 quoting stock reference: S5875</p>	 <p>CITROEN DS3 1.6 BLUEHDI DESIRE *** FREE TAX *** 3 DOOR, CD PLAYER, AIR CON, POWER STEERING, ELECTRIC WINDOWS, ONLY 14,000 MILES, LOW INSURANCE, IMMACULATE CONDITION</p> <p>Buy this car, and drive away today from only £45 per week*. Call us on 0800 917 4622 quoting stock reference: S5897</p>	 <p>SUZUKI S-CROSS ONLY £20 TAX PER YEAR, MANUAL, 6 SPEED DIESEL, ALLOYS, CD PLAYER, AIR CON, POWER STEERING, ELECTRIC WINDOWS, ONLY 23,000 MILES, IMMACULATE CONDITION</p> <p>Buy this car, and drive away today from only £45 per week*. Call us on 0800 917 4622 quoting stock reference: S5792</p>	 <p>FORD FOCUS 1.5 TDCI TITANIUM *** FREE TAX *** 5 DOOR, 6 SPEED DIESEL, ALLOYS, CD PLAYER, AIR CON, POWER STEERING, ELECTRIC WINDOWS, STILL UNDER FORD WARRANTY, IMMACULATE CONDITION</p> <p>Buy this car, and drive away today from only £55 per week*. Call us on 0800 917 4622 quoting stock reference: S5816</p>	 <p>VAUXHALL ZAFIRA TOURER AUTOMATIC AUTOMATIC, 7 SEATER, DIESEL, CD PLAYER, AIR CON, POWER STEERING, ELECTRIC WINDOWS, IMMACULATE CONDITION</p> <p>Buy this car, and drive away today from only £45 per week*. Call us on 0800 917 4622 quoting stock reference: S5706</p>

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Well-equipped and priced KIA Stonic

By Graham Breeze

Every manufacturer needs to be in the small SUV sector so it's no surprise to see the Kia Stonic arriving on the roads of the UK.

Experts predict that B-SUV sector sales will double to over two million in Europe by 2020 and Kia expects to sell 70,000 Stonics this year with up to 10,000 of them in the UK.

It's a bold prediction for a first-time entry into the sector but Stonic does come with a certain air of confidence around it based on the latest Rio supermini and powered by efficient petrol and diesel powertrains from the Rio and cee'd families.

The model has five versions based on two trim lines and three powertrains featuring all the usual connectivity and electronic driving assistance systems we have come to expect – but it comes in front-wheel drive only so you won't be taking to the fields in a Stonic.

You will instantly recognise the Stonic as a member of the Kia family thanks to the "tiger-nose" front grille, distinctive C-pillar, straight lines and smooth surfaces but the 1.6 CRDi First Edition Eco on test stood out thanks to two-tone colouring to roof, mirrors, rear spoiler and interior trim.

It's typically Kia inside too with control buttons kept to a minimum and everything just where you would expect to find it but finding a comfortable driving position proved a little difficult with low seating for a car which stands so high on the road.

All versions are generously equipped, with an extensive range of active safety features and up-to-the-minute connectivity in First Edition versions.



All versions are generously equipped

Electronic Stability Control (ESC) and Vehicle Stability Management (VSM) are standard. VSM is linked to Torque Vectoring, Straight Line Stability and Cornering Brake Control to help the driver maintain control in bad weather or on poorly surfaced roads. All versions also have Hill-start Assist.

Autonomous Emergency Braking and Lane Departure Warning are standard in the First Edition and optional on grade 2 as part of an Advanced Driving Assistance Pack (ADAP). The Lane Departure Warning System is linked to Driver Attention Warning.

You also get High Beam Assist, which automatically switches the car between dipped and full beam according to the traffic around it and the local street lighting along with Blind Spot Detection with Rear Cross Traffic Alert, to prevent the car from being driven into the path of a vehicle approaching from an angle out of the driver's eye-line.

The First Edition comes with a 7inch touchscreen navigation and infotainment system featuring Kia Connected Services with TomTom, Android Auto and Apple CarPlay



You will instantly recognise the Stonic as a Kia thanks to the "tiger-nose" front grille, C-pillar, straight lines and smooth surfaces

smartphone integration standard across the range.

All models have 17-inch alloy wheels, air conditioning, all-round electric windows with an automatic function on the driver's side, roof rails, rear parking sensors, remote locking, electrically adjustable heated door mirrors, a 3.5-inch supervision cluster, Bluetooth with music streaming, automatic headlight control, bi-function projection headlamps and cornering lights and LED daytime running lights and a six-speaker audio system.

The First Edition adds a smart key entry

system and engine start/stop button, stainless steel pedals, black cloth and grey faux leather upholstery with colour accents, automatic air conditioning, LED rear lights, privacy glass on the rear side windows and tailgate, heated front seats and D-shaped steering wheel, chrome window trim and interior door handles and a dual-height luggage floor.

There's enough space up-front but it's a bit too cosy in the back to claim it to be a five-seater and Stonic is a bit short on storage. Rear seats do split 60/40 but there's not enough boot space for the golf clubs.

The CRDi version on test claimed a combined economy figure of 67.3mpg with CO2 emissions of 109g/km. Yet with 260Nm of torque stretching from 1,500 to 2,750rpm it was certainly not lacking in pace, delivering a brisk 10.9-second acceleration from 0 to 60mph.

Prices for the Stonic start at £16,295 and rise to just over £21,000 for the range-topping 1.6 CRDi so Kia has been careful to make the new model competitive.

Will Kia hit target sales this year? I suspect so.

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How they stand

37

Oswestry & Border Chronicle Thursday, May 10, 2018

Birmingham Cricket League

Premier Division 1st XI									
	P	W	D	L	T	A	P		
Shrewsbury	2	2	0	0	0	0	40		
WB Dartmouth	2	1	0	0	0	1	26		
Dorridge	2	1	0	0	0	1	25		
Knowle & D.	2	1	0	0	0	1	25		
Moseley	2	1	0	0	0	1	25		
Wolverhampton	2	1	0	0	0	1	25		
Barnet Green	2	0	0	1	0	1	11		
Berkswell	2	0	0	1	0	1	11		
Kenilworth W.	2	0	0	1	0	1	11		
Walsall	2	0	0	1	0	1	10		
Ombersley	2	0	0	1	0	1	9		
Smethwick	2	0	0	1	0	1	9		

Division One 1st XI									
	P	W	D	L	T	A	P		
Shifnal	2	2	0	0	0	0	40		
Barnards Green	2	1	0	0	0	1	25		
Halesowen	2	1	0	0	0	1	25		
Himley	2	1	0	0	0	1	25		
Kidderminster	2	1	0	0	0	1	25		
Tamworth	2	1	0	0	0	1	25		
Bridgnorth	2	1	0	0	0	1	25		
Brockhampton	2	0	0	1	0	1	11		
Leamington	2	0	0	1	0	1	11		
Bromsgrove	2	0	0	1	0	1	7		
Oswestry	2	0	0	1	0	1	5		
Wellington	2	0	0	2	0	0	5		

Division Two 1st XI									
	P	W	D	L	T	A	P		
Wombourne	2	2	0	0	0	0	40		
Ashwood Bank	2	1	0	0	0	1	25		
Harborne	2	1	0	0	0	1	25		
Penkridge	2	1	0	0	0	1	25		
Pershore	2	1	0	0	0	1	25		
Sutton Coldfield	2	1	0	0	0	1	25		
Walmley	2	0	0	1	0	1	11		
Attock	2	0	0	1	0	1	10		
Streets	2	0	0	1	0	1	10		
C & R Hawks	2	0	0	1	0	1	9		
Coventry & N.W.	2	0	0	1	0	1	8		
Fordhouses	2	0	0	2	0	0	8		

Division Three 1st XI									
	P	W	D	L	T	A	P		
Lichfield	2	1	0	1	0	0	25		
Old Elizabethans	2	1	0	0	0	1	25		
Old Hill	2	1	0	0	0	1	25		
Rugby	2	1	0	0	0	1	25		
Stourbridge	2	1	0	0	0	1	25		
Stratford-u-Avon	2	1	0	0	0	1	25		
Newport	2	1	0	0	0	1	25		
Redditch	2	0	0	1	0	1	11		
Handsworth	2	0	0	1	0	1	9		
Milford Hall	2	0	0	1	0	1	9		
Whitchurch	2	0	0	1	0	1	7		
Pelsall	2	0	0	1	0	1	6		

Premier Division 2nd XI									
	P	W	D	L	T	A	P		
Brockhampton	2	1	0	0	0	1	25		
Knowle & D.	2	1	0	0	0	1	25		
Moseley	2	1	0	0	0	1	25		
Shifnal	2	1	0	0	0	1	25		
Tamworth	2	1	0	0	0	1	25		
Attock	2	0	0	1	0	1	11		
Harborne	2	0	0	1	0	1	10		
Himley	2	0	0	1	0	1	10		
Kenilworth W.	2	0	0	1	0	1	10		
Wolverhampton	2	0	0	1	0	1	10		
Leamington	2	0	0	1	0	1	9		
Walmley	2	0	0	1	0	1	7		

Division One 2nd XI									
	P	W	D	L	T	A	P		
Ashwood Bank	2	1	0	0	0	1	25		
Barn Green	2	1	0	0	0	1	25		
Bromsgrove	2	1	0	0	0	1	25		
Halesowen	2	1	0	0	0	1	25		
Wombourne	2	1	0	0	0	1	25		
Walsall	2	1	0	0	0	1	20		
Penkridge	2	0	0	1	0	1	12		
Pershore	2	0	0	1	0	1	10		
Coventry & N.W.	2	0	0	1	0	1	8		
Ombersley	2	0	0	1	0	1	8		
Shrewsbury	2	0	0	1	0	1	8		
WB Dartmouth	2	0	0	1	0	1	5		

Division Two 2nd XI (N)									
	P	W	D	L	T	A	P		
Bridgnorth	2	2	0	0	0	0	40		
Fordhouses	2	2	0	0	0	0	40		
Milford Hall	2	1	0	0	0	1	25		
Old Hill	2	1	0	0	0	1	25		
Smethwick	2	1	0	0	0	1	25		
Lichfield	2	1	0	0	0	1	24		
Whitchurch	2	0	0	1	0	1	21		
Lichfield	2	0	0	1	0	1	11		
Wellington	2	0	0	2	0	0	10		
C & R Hawks	2	0	0	1	0	1	8		
Newport	2	0	0	1	0	1	8		
Oswestry	2	0	0	2	0	0	5		

Division Two 2nd XI (S)									
	P	W	D	L	T	A	P		
Stourbridge	2	2	0	0	0	0	40		
Berkswell	2	1	0	0	0	1	25		
Rugby	2	1	0	0	0	1	25		
Stratford-u-Avon	2	1	0	0	0	1	25		
Sutton Coldfield	2	1	0	0	0	1	25		
Redditch	2	1	0	0	0	1	22		
Kidderminster	1	0	0	0	1	0	15		
Dorridge	2	0	0	1	0	1	11		
Old Elizabethans	2	0	0	1	0	1	11		
Handsworth	2	0	0	2	0	0	8		
Streets	2	0	0	1	0	1	8		
Barnards Green	1	0	0	0	0	1	5		

Marches Cricket League

Division 1									
	P	W	D	L	T	A	P		
Goodrich	2	2	0	0	0	0	36		
Garnons	2	1	0	0	0	1	30		
Dales, Herefordshire	2	1	0	0	0	1	26		
Builth Wells	1	1	0	0	0	0	25		
Lutonians	1	1	0	0	0	0	23		
Clebury Mortimer	2	0	1	0	0	1	12		
Ross on Wye	2	0	0	1	0	1	11		
Kington	2	0	0	1	0	0	8		
Abergavenny	2	0	0	1	0	0	7		
Brockhampton	2	0	0	1	0	0	5		

Division 2									
	P	W	D	L	T	A	P		
Canon Frome	2	1	0	0	0	1	30		
Almeley	1	1	0	0	0	0	24		
Glangwynydd	1	0	0	0	0	0	24		
Lutonians	2	0	0	0	1	0	13		
Knights on Tern	2	0	0	1	0	0	11		
Colwall	2	0	0	0	0	0	10		
Woolhope	2	0	0	0	0	0	10		
Strollers, Hereford	1	0	0	0	0	0	5		
Ledbury	1	0	0	0	0	0	5		



Market Drayton Tigers Under 8s ended their first season in the Shropshire Junior Football League with another brilliant win. The management team would like to thank sponsors Pimlotts Gardening Specialists, Lodge Tyres and A Raines Carpentry & Joinery.

Division 3									
	P	W	D	L	T	A	P		
Garnons	2	1	0	0	0	1	29		
Ross on Wye	2	1	0	0	0	1	28		
Ledbury	2	1	0	0	0	1	26		
Builth Wells	2	1	0	0	0	1	25		
Prestige	2	0	0	1	0	0	9		
Bartestree & Lug	2	0	0	1	0	0	6		
Canon Frome	1	0	0	1	0	0	5		
Moccas	1	0	0	1	0	0	4		
Goodrich	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		

Division 4									
	P	W	D	L	T	A	P		
Hay-on-Wye	2	1	0	0	0	1	30		
Strollers, Hereford	2	1	0	0	0	1	29		
Wormelow	2	0	0	0	0	0	28		
Herefordians	2	0	0	0	0	0	25		
Glangwynydd	2	0	0	0	0	0	24		
Brockhampton	2	0	0	0	0	0	17		
Lutonians	2	0	0	0	0	0	12		
Bosbury	1	0	0	0	0	0	6		
Bartestree & Lugwardine	1	0	0	0	0	0	5		
Colwall	1	0	0	0	0	0	5		
Woolhope	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		

Sky Bet League One									
	P	W	D	L	F	A	P		
Wigan Athletic	46	29	11	6	89	29	98		
Blackburn Rovers	46	28	12	6	82	40	96		
Shrewsbury Town	46	25	12	9	50	39	87		
Rotherham United	46	24	7	15	73	53	79		
Scunthorpe United	46	19	17	10	65	50	74		
Cardiff City	46	20	11	15	58	59	68		
Plymouth Argyle	46	19	11	16	58	59	68		
Portsmouth	46	20	6	20	57	56	66		
Peterborough United	46	17	13	16	68	60	64		
Southend United	46	17	12	17	58	62	63		
Bradford City	46	18	9	19	57	67	63		
Blackpool	46	15	16	16	60	55	60		
Bristol Rovers	46	16	11	19	60	66	59		
Fleetwood Town	46	16	9	21	59	68	57		
Doncaster Rovers	46	13	17	16	62	52	56		
Northampton Town	46	15	11	20	61	66	56		
Gillingham	46	13	17	16	50	55	56		
AFC Wimbledon	46	13	14	19	47	58	53		
Walsall	46	13	10	23	53	66	52		
Rochdale	46	11	18	17	49	57	51		
Cheltenham Athletic	46	17	10	19	55	54	60		
Northampton Town	46	12	11	23	47	77	47		
Mill Keynes Doncs	46	11	12	23	43	69	45		
Bury	46	12	12	23	41	71	46		

Ten-goal Ellesmere want FA Cup spot

ELLESMERE RANGERS wrap up their West Midlands League premier division at home to second-placed Tividale tonight (Thursday, 7.45pm) knowing victory would see them finish fifth, writes STUART DUNN.

Jamie Haynes, joint manager with Kevin Sandwith, was delighted with Ellesmere's approach as they produced a clinical display to beat Pegasus Juniors 10-0 last weekend.

The managerial duo were set the target of securing a top six spot when they were appointed earlier this year and are pleased to have achieved their aim.

They now hope it will prove enough to secure the Beech Grove club a place in next season's FA Cup.

"To beat any team 10-0 is some feat," said Haynes. "I was really pleased with the way the lads kept their foot on the throttle and kept going forward even though we were 5-0 up at half time.

"We've achieved what we set out to do by finishing in the top six and it would be nice to get fifth place by winning our last game against Tividale."

Top scorer Karl Bailey grabbed a hat-trick to take his tally for the season up to 30 goals.

There were doubles from Anwar Ologbon and man of the match Seth Ellis while Charlie Fletcher and James Bloor also weighed in.

Joint boss Sandwith, an experienced former Football League full back, came on as a late sub in the closing stages just a few days after celebrating his 40th birthday.

"He's still as fit as a fiddle," said Haynes. "He came on for the last 10 minutes in midfield."

Ellesmere were also victorious last Thursday night when they won 2-1 at Wellington Amateurs.

Meanwhile, CHURCH STRETTON maintained their excellent form in the second half of the season in the West Midlands League second division by beating AFC Bilbrook 7-0 in a match played at Hanwood last weekend.

It was a memorable day for 16-year-old James Hill as he led the way with a hat-trick.

Dean Richards netted twice while Jordan Wells and Matty Jones were also on target.

Stretton are away to Gornal Colts on Saturday before their final game of their debut campaign as a West Midlands League Club at Warstone Wanderers next Tuesday night.

Oswestry in early defeat for the T20

OSWESTRY fell to a 54-run defeat at home to Bridgnorth in the first round of the Birmingham Cricket League Twenty20 Knockout.

Put in two bat, Bridgnorth posted 138-8 from their 20 overs, with David Exall hammering 34, with five fours and a six, while Tom Weaver weighed in with 27.

Left arm spinner Warrick Fynn was the most successful of the bowlers with 3-31 from his four overs.

Jonathan Davies took 2-16 off three and Floyd Owen 2-39 from four, while there was one victim for Joshua Darley (1-20 off four).

Fynn then smashed 53 in reply, but there was little support at the other end as the Morda Road men were limited to 85-8 from 20 overs. Sam Whitney took 3-21 and Sam Baugh 2-10.

Meanwhile, OSWESTRY II were shot out for just 46 by Smethwick in their seven wicket loss that sees them dropping up the Birmingham League division two 2nd XI (north).

Opting to bat first, the Morda Road hosts crumbled, before their West Midlands visitors knocked of the runs in just eight overs, Adam Lloyd took 2-16 and Stuart Owen 1-23.

Pace ace Thomas take nine wickets

ASHLEY Thomas bagged a nine wicket haul as Ellesmere made it three straight wins in the Shropshire Cricket League division two when defeating Shrewsbury III by 39 runs in a low scoring affair.

After opting to bat first under sunny skies, the Meresiders slumped to 71 all out in the 25th over, Jonathan Mitchell and Ashley Thomas top scoring with 17 apiece as Timothy Stone snapped up 5-17.

But paceman Thomas then skittled Shrewsbury's batting for just 32 with a terrific spell of 9-17 in 9.4 overs to secure another win to keep his side flying high.

CAE GLAS slumped to a nine wicket loss to Prees in their division three clash after their batting collapsed at sunny Gatacre.

They looked to be going well through opening batsman Andy Griffiths (29) and No3 Gareth Edgerton (20) before being skittled for just 79, with Andy Darlington finishing with remarkable figures of 5-3 in four overs.

Prees then knocked off the runs for the loss of just one batsman inside 18 overs, with James Hopley finishing unbeaten on 39 and Stephen Williams 31 not out.

A depleted CAE GLAS II suffered a 161-run beating at Pontesbury in the 2nd XI division three.

A maiden century for captain Dave Morris (126), ably supported by Darrell Corfield (73), saw Pontesbury rattle up 251-5 in their 40 overs, Danny Percy taking 2-28.

Opener Percy then struck 38 in reply, but the rest of the batting folded for just 90 in the 24th over.

GUILDSFIELD made short work of Llanidloes in division four as they routed their Powys rivals for just 47 before knocking off the runs for the loss of just two wickets inside five overs.

COBRA's promotion hopes are dashed

RUGBY by John Bridgwater

COBRA'S chances of snatching runners-up spot in the Welsh League division two (north) were ended after slipping to a 45-33 loss at Shotton Steel despite staging a stirring second half fightback

Victory now means that second placed Shotton will step up to the first division next term, but the Meifod men could take plenty of heart from a five-try salvo after the break.

Having made the trip with a depleted side, the visitors found themselves trailing 28-0 at the break after being punished for losing possession on several occasions.

But they came out for the second period with real purpose and, despite trailing 45-7, dominated the last 20 minutes with a strong finish in ideal running conditions.

They ran in a total of five tries to gain one bonus point, and should have had a second bonus point only for fullback Richard Jones to inadvertently step over the dead ball line as he looked to touch down under the posts.

Even so, they could take plenty of satisfaction from the second half performance as they look to finish the season on a high note with a top four finish.

Champions

The five tries were scored by No8 Jack Jukes, centre Rhys Jones, second row Lloyd Bright, scrum half Richie Roberts and fly half Rhodri Jones, who also landed four conversions.

Meanwhile, in the same division, Llanidloes suffered a day to forget as a weakened side crashed to a 101-7 loss at newly crowned champions Denbigh.

Victory saw high-riding Denbigh presented with the league crown after the game, and their Powys visitors never looked likely to spoil the party as they wilted in the sunshine.

They made the trip with just 13 players along with coach Adam Gaca, and were ruthlessly opened up by the runaway leaders.

They did gain a consolation when, trailing 70-0 at the time, captain Paul Jehu went over for a try, converted by Adam Price.

But it was a brief respite as Denbigh continued to call the tune, using their extra man effectively to underline their all round strength.

... but youngsters celebrating



The COBRA youngsters after their Wales Youth Plate win over Denbigh. ■ Pic: Trevor Jones.

COBRA'S youngsters stormed to Wales Youth Plate glory after pulling off a stirring 30-28 victory over Denbigh in the final at sun-drenched Bangor.

The Meifod lads had gone into the showdown with a depleted side, which meant they were unable to ring the changes in sweltering conditions.

But they dug deep to clinch the Plate for the first time, much to the delight of head coach Steve Horne.

"We always have tight games with Denbigh, and they were able to bring on fresh legs which made a difference," he said,

"But I'm very proud of the lads

for the way they performed and acquitted themselves in testing conditions.

"We have a very young side and most of the boys will be around for the next season, which will provide a good basis for the future of the club."

COBRA trailed to an early converted try, but hit back with Cian Roberts reducing the arrears with a penalty.

They turned up the pressure to edge in front with a try from scrum half Josh Davies converted try Roberts, before another touchdown under the posts from centre Deniol Jones made it 17-7 at the interval.

Denbigh reduced the deficit with a second converted score, but a Roberts penalty gave COBRA some breathing space.

Roberts landed another kick before back row forward Harry Hughes went over for a crucial touchdown to make it 30-14 with five minutes remaining.

With the hot conditions taking their toll, Denbigh were given a new lease of life with the introduction of several replacements.

They pressed late on, and set up a tense finish with a couple of converted tries, but the Llanfair lads held out to record their third win of the season against their opponents,

Rhyn win to stay in touch with the leaders

WESTON RHYN A stayed hard on the heels of the leaders in the Oswestry and District Bowling League division two after their 7-3 home win against Llangynog A.

Second placed Rhyn took the spoils with an aggregate of 36 shots (145-109) courtesy of three single figure winners.

Their best of the night was Pip Penrose with a 21-4 verdict.

CHURCH B continue to find the going touch after their 9-1 (167-118) reverse at early leaders CRIFTINS B, whose Elliot Mochan and Dave Jones led the way with 21-10 victories.

LLANRHAeadr A are also lying in the wrong half of the table after their 7-3 (149-131) loss at Johnstown B, Mel Roberts (21-10) their best of the night.

Gareth Parry and Paul Edwards won to three and eight respectively as Ye Olde Crofte A prevailed 7-3 (144-122) against visiting Criftins C whose Dean Lewis (21-8) was the best of the replies. Crofts moved up to fourth.

GEORGE remain in the lower reaches after their 7-3 (147-118) reverse at Plas Kynaston A, Lance Leonard chalking up their best result with a 21-7 win.

John Dovaston (21-7) led the way as Ellesmere A put paid to Johnstown D 7-3 (142-128).

Meanwhile, WHITTINGTON A underlined their early credentials in division one after earning a victory on the road to Church A.

LLANYMYNECH A moved into the top half of the table after overcoming Corwen A 7-3 (145-121).

CRIFTINS A crashed 9-1 (161-102) at defending champions Ceiriog Valley A, with their consolation coming through Gary Wilkie's 21-14 success.

Cynwyd A put paid to Flexslys A 8-2 (161-102) while Llangollen A were 6-4 (144-121) winners at home to Ruabon A.

WHITTINGTON B are the early leaders of division three, after making it four wins out of four win with a 7-3 (140-130) success at Johnstown C. Jacqui Whitley took the individual honours with a 21-7 verdict.

Division four pacesetters are CRIFTINS D who whitewashed Llanfyllin 10-0 (158-86) with Colin Whittaker (21-5) the best of the night.

Ifton remain bottom after narrow defeat

DESPITE an improved showing, Ifton remain at the foot of the Salop Leisure Shropshire Premier Bowls League following a 8-6 loss at basement rivals Bylet.

The sides had finished level at 6-6, but the St Martins visitors were edged out by just 10 shots (226-215) to leave them two points adrift at the foot of the table.

They are back on home soil on Friday night as they look to return to winning ways, but face a tricky home clash against one of the early front-runners, Sir John Bayley.

Geraint Williams was the best of the night for Ifton in their latest action, taking his match 21-11, while Craig Griffiths won to 14 - his fourth victory in five outings.

Joey Williams prevailed 21-17, Martin Jones came through to 18 and Andrew Hughes to 19, with the closet match of the night seeing Leighton Roberts edge out Chris Chamberlain 21-20 for his third success of the campaign.

Ifton are now two points adrift of Hamner who crashed 13-1 (248-151) at Hanwood who themselves moved into second spot courtesy of their crushing win.

Wrockwardine Wood are top of the table following their fine 9-6 victory at St Georges after the teams had finished level on shots 202-202.

GB Tennis Weekend sure to be a huge hit

CATHIE SABIN, Shropshire's former Lawn Tennis Association president, will officially open Bridgnorth Tennis Club's new courts during the first Great British Tennis Weekend of 2018.

Shrewsbury's Monkmoor Recreation Ground - last year's regional winner of the British Tennis community venue award - is among the other county venues taking part in this weekend's initiative, introduced by the LTA in 2013 to entice more people to play tennis.

A number of Shropshire clubs have signed up to open their doors to their local communities as an opportunity to showcase just what they can offer potential new members of all ages.

Bob Kerr, the chairman of Tennis Shropshire, said: "This is a free event for families as well as individuals, a chance to pop along to a local club and see just what's on offer.

"From mini tennis for the little ones to cardio tennis for those keen to get the blood pumping, this is an ideal opportunity to get involved.

"It's also a chance for those who are just looking for a social knock-about to meet the volunteers at local clubs and see just what opportunities there are for them.

"Rackets and balls will be provided, so whether you've never picked up a racket before or you're a seasoned regular, there is certainly much fun to be had."

Bridgnorth Tennis Club will be running a busy programme of activities between 9.30am and 3.30pm on Saturday, with Cathie Sabin, whose time as LTA president coincided with Great Britain memorably winning the Davis Cup, officially opening the new courts at 10am.

There are also a host of activities on Saturday at Market Drayton Tennis Club (10am-4pm), Shrewsbury Lawn Tennis Club (12.30-4.30pm), Newport's Boughey Gardens (1-3pm), Telford Tennis Centre (1.30-3pm), Whitchurch's Hollies Tennis Club (2-4pm) and Baschurch Tennis Club (2-7pm).

Then on Sunday it's the turn of Tilstock Tennis Club (12-4pm), Broseley Tennis Club (2-4pm) and Monkmoor Recreation Ground (12-3pm) to host Great British Tennis Weekend events.

Shropshire Cricket Lge fixture list

Saturday

Premier division: Madeley v Bomere Heath, Wern v Lound, St Georges v Worfield, Quatt v Ludlow, Newtown v Frankton, Sentinel (no game).

Division one: Shelton v Wroxeter and Uppington, Albrighton v Welshpool, Aliscott Heath v Beacon, Pontesbury v Alberbury, Knockin and Kinnerley v Forton, Condoever v Market Drayton.

Division two: Ellesmere v Church Aston, Shrewsbury 3 v Montgomery, Wheaton Aston v Bishop's Castle, Shifnal 3 v Ludlow 3, HPTCC v Willey, Wellington 3 v Lilleshall.

Division three: Iscoyd and Fenns Bank v Much Wenlock, Harpers v Overton Dee, Acton Reynald v Hinstock, St Georges 3 v Church Streeton, Chelmarsh v Cae Glas, Prees v Calverhall.

Division four: Guilsfield v Column, Llanelloes v Coton Hall, Corvedale v Beacon 3, Quayside v Trysull and Sealdon, Harcourt v Oswestry 3, Bridgnorth 3 (no game).

Second teams

Division one: Frankton 2 v Knockin and Kinnerley 2, Alberbury 2 v Quatt 2, Worfield 2 v St Georges 2, Montgomery 2 v Wern 2, Sentinel 2 v Wellington 4, Wroxeter and Uppington 2 v Shelton 2.

Division two: Willey 2 v Newtown 2, Ludlow 2 v Shifnal 4, Beacon 2 v Aliscott Heath 2, Cound 2 v Acton Reynald 2, Lilleshall 2 v Broseley, Bomere Heath 2 v Madeley 2.

Division three: Cae Glas 2 v Albrighton 2, Much Wenlock 2 v Aliscott Heath 3, Welshpool 2 v Pontesbury 2, Market Drayton 2 v Corvedale 2, Lilleshall 4 v St Georges 4, Forton 2 v Ellesmere 2, Quatt 3 v Iscoyd and Fenns Bank 2, Bishop's Castle 2 v Condoever 2.

Sunday

Division one: Wern 3 v Knockin and Kinnerley 3, Sentinel 3 v Pontesbury 3, Wellington 5 v Frankton 3, Cound 3 v Newport 3, Shrewsbury 4 v Worfield 3, Wellington 5 (no game).

Division two: Bridgnorth 4 v Bomere Heath 3, Madeley 3 v Wellington 6, Alberbury 3 v Whitchurch 3, Knockin and Kinnerley 4 v Oswestry 4, Ludlow 4 v Madeley 4.

New Saints Ladies retain County Cup

HOLDERS The New Saints Ladies kept hold of the Tom Farmer Shropshire County Cup thanks to a last gasp 1-0 victory over Shrewsbury Town Ladies at AFC Telford's New Bucks Head.

The final looked to be heading for a goalless stalemate when Louisa Anderson struck four minutes into added time to seal a dramatic and deserved win.

The Saints, whose form had wavered of late in the FA Womens Premier League Midlands division one, showed their commitment inside the first minute when some brave goalkeeper from Stacey Garnham resulted in treatment for the TNS stopper.

Emily Ridge, TNS Ladies' golden boot winner this season, was denied in the fifth minute by good goal-keeping by Beth Cleveley at the other end.

Kim Bebbington then flicked an effort wide in the 17th minute after latching onto a ball in from the right from Sophie Davies, while Ridge did find the net 10 minutes before half time when pouncing on a through ball only for the flag to one raised for off-side.

The Saints were having the better of the action in the first half, but Shrewsbury sounded a warning with a smart shot from the impressive Charlotte

Budd.

TNS continued to hold the upper hand after the interval, going close on several occasions as the final remained goalless.

Shrewsbury's chief threat came through the lively Budd, but her efforts were snuffed out by some solid defending.

With time running out, TNS were finally rewarded when the ball was played in by Phoebe Davies and Lou Anderson steered nto the net to give boss Andy Williams his first piece of first silverware since taking charge at Park Hall.

Free-scoring Saints book cup semi spot

FOOTBALL by John Bridgwater

ST MARTINS kept their flag flying in the West Midlands League Cup after overcoming hosts Telford Juniors 4-1 to book their place in the semi-finals.

Already looking assured of promotion to the North West Counties League next season, the Saints also stayed on course for some cup silverware. They will host Bromyard Town in the last four on Saturday. Their latest victory means that St Martins have now netted 112 goals in 36 games this season.

Making the trip to Telford in confident mood, the visitors took the lead on 29 minutes as man-of-the-match Tom Ash fired home from a Dave Easthope through ball.

And they doubled their advantage three minutes before the break through Callum Graybrook after Easthope's pass had deflected off team-mate Brendon Price.

Juniors pulled one back early in the second half, but St Martins were not to be denied as Easthope smashed home a piledriver from wide out on 68 minutes.

Victory was secured four minutes form time when Ash notched his second goal of the game after good work from Harrison Millington and Easthope.

Just two days before, St Martins eased into the last eight with a 6-1 romp against Gornal Athletic at Park Hall thanks to a five goal blast in the second half.

After a slow star to the tie, the Saints were ahead on 23 minutes courtesy of a superb solo effort from Easthope who weaved his way through the defence before smashing his close range shot into the net.

Despite being buoyed by the goal, the Saints were fortunate to survive at the other end when a Gornal effort beat advancing keeper George Austin only to hit the inside of the post before being cleared.

The visitors, however, were on terms seven minutes after the break when cashing in on a poor clearance from Austin to slot home into an empty net.

But Dan Stevens' men were not to be denied, and took the game by the scruff of the net with a flurry of goals, the first seeing Shawn Melusi restore the lead on the hour when firing home a loose ball after Hartshorn's shot had been saved.

Three minutes later, the home side extended their advantage through Easthope's strike after Price had laid off from a right wing cross by

ing maintaining our Category 1 League status, being promoted into the Category 2 League, winning the Welsh Premier under-19s Development League (north), and now the county cup."

For more information about the TNS NSC Professional Phase Scholarship programme, please contact Steve Benyon on 07791-136509, or email steve.benyon@tnsfc.co.uk.

Those interested can also apply for scholarship programmes starting in September by visiting www.nsc.ac.uk or calling the admissions team on 01691-688080.

Excellent

"I am overjoyed with the excellent performances from the players this year. We have managed to achieve four out of our five objectives from this season, includ-

Reformed Forden are promoted as champs

FORDEN United are champions of the Montgomeryshire League division two after maintaining their 100 per cent record with a 3-1 victory over title rivals Llangedwyn.

In a memorable first season after reforming, United maintained their fine run thanks two goals from Michael Henderson-Smith and one from Tom Anderson. They now make a swift return to division one.

GUILSFIELD reserves proved too hot for struggling Caersws reserves as they stormed to a 6-0 victory in the sunshine to keep alive their title chances in division one.

FOUR CROSSES, meanwhile, booked their place in the Boys & Boden Montgomeryshire League Cup semi-finals after seeing off Guilsfield reserves 3-1 at Clos Mytton.

Top scorer Jamie Evans continued his rich vein of form with a brace of goals, and Ryan Jones also found the net as the Foxen Manor side booked their third semi-final this season.

Saturday's results

Division one: Guilsfield Res 6 Caersws Res 0, Maesyrhandir 3 Meifod 0.

Division two: Trefonen 6 Kerry Res 2.

Mid Wales Trophies Consolation Cup round one: Carno Res v Llanrhaeadr Res (Llanrhaeadr walkover), Llangedwyn 3 Welshpool Res 0, Llanymynech v Abermule Res (Llanymynech walkover).

High fives as Llanfair book spot in semis

LLANFAIR United stormed into the semi-finals of the Spar Mid Wales League Cup with a 5-3 passage against Knighton Town at the Mount Field.

Victory means that United will now take on Bow Street in their last four clash next Tuesday (May 15) at Llanelloes Town's Victoria Avenue ground.

The other semi-final between Welshpool Town and Aberaeron was being played this week, also at Llanelloes.

Llanfair were up for the challenge against Knighton, and took the lead after 10 minutes when Josh Astley headed in a Paul Griffiths corner.

The visitors were back on terms on the half hour but the home side restored their advantage after the break when a long Dan Kenyon throw was deflected into his own net by a defender.

On the hour, Matt Spencer pounced on a poor back pass to increase the lead, and Alun Hughes made it 4-1.

Knighton pulled one back, before Paul Griffiths fired a fifth with a free kick 10 minutes from time to settle the outcome.

Town undone by late double

FC OSWESTRY'S disappointing run continued when they slumped to a 2-0 defeat to Atherton LR at Park Hall in their last home game of the season.

Two late goals put paid to Town, with David Moore breaking the deadlock on 73 minutes before Cameron Peeling settled the issue with a stunning 35-yard strike eight minutes from time.

It was to prove another frustrating night for Town who have won just twice in the league since the turn of the year, while victory saw Atherton climb above their hosts in the league table.

TNS U18 side land County Cup



TNS Professional Phase scholarship players and coaches celebrate their recent SSCFA under-18s cup win against Thomas Telford

THE trail of success continued for North Shropshire College and TNS scholars who landed another piece of silverware.

After falling behind to a penalty, goals from Tom Williams and Rob Reynolds secured a 2-1 victory over former winners Thomas Telford in the final of the Shropshire Schools and Colleges FA under-18s County Cup.

The latest win added to the already successful season for the North Shropshire College and TNS Professional Phase students who last month claimed the Welsh Premier under-19s Development League (north title).

"It's exciting that the scholarship programme is going to continue its strong development in the future, allowing us to accommodate even more high quality players who can excel both on and off the pitch," said Steve Benyon, sport lecturer and TNS phase scholarship coach.

Excellent

"I am overjoyed with the excellent performances from the players this year. We have managed to achieve four out of our five objectives from this season, includ-

and Dyffryn Banw edged out Abermule 2-1.

■ Having wrapped up the league title just a few days before, Llanrhaeadr underlined their champion credentials with a 3-0 victory at Carno in mid-week with Adam Burgess, player boss Marc Griffiths and Tommy Evans on the mark.

Berriew edged out struggling Both United 3-2 in their midweek trek with Steff Rogers, Josh Morgan and Marc Jones (penalty) on target.

Two sides who had been in with a shout of runners-up spot, Bow Street and Llanelloes Town, finished 2-2 in the big game of the night.

Llani had trailed by two goals inside the first 20 minutes but hit back to earn parity with the leveler coming from Peter Rees following a goalkeeping slip.

Churchstoke also rallied to draw 2-2 at home to Kerry who failed to capitalise after being two up through Matt Mumford and an own goal.

Honours were also shared as Machynlleth finished 1-1 against visiting Tywyn Brynucrug.

Party time as Llanrhaeadr lift trophy

IT WAS party time as on-song Llanrhaeadr celebrated their Spar Mid Wales League division one title with a 3-0 victory at home to Llandrindod Wells.

Having wrapped up the league crown the week before, the champions received the trophy after the game as goals from Tommy Evans (2) and Kyham Wyton ensured the festivities were not dampened.

Llandod were looking to spoil the party, but found themselves behind after just five minutes through Evans' first of the game, before Khyam Wyton doubled the advantage at the break.

After the interval, Evans then added his second with a quality finish on 75 minutes to finally put paid to the Wellmen who battled hard throughout.

WELSHPOOL Town will finish runners-up without kicking a ball as results went in their favour elsewhere.

Llanelloes Town saw their hopes of landing second place dashed with a 1-0 home loss to Carno whose Scott Williams got the only goal of the game in the second half.

FOOTBALL by John Bridgwater

Bow Street, who could also have overtaken Pool, went down 2-1 away to Radnor Valley who hit back to take the points through Cai Matthews and Joey Price.

BERRIEW enjoyed a goal feast as they thrashed Tywyn Brynucrug 6-0 to pass their target of 40 points for the season.

Steff Rogers scored twice, while Luke Vickers, Jake Mann, George Davies and Josh Morgan also on target.

Nathan Prodger fired a hat-trick as Llansantffraid Village finished 4-4 with Buith Wells in their top of the table showdown in division two, Bailey Austin also finding the net.

Both sides are promoted this season, but Buith, who are two points clear at the top, are favourites to claim the title with three games in hand.

Elsewhere, Montgomery thrashed Penybont 7-1

Sport

Football
Saints book up spot
in cup semis – P39

Rugby
COBRA promotion
hopes over – P38



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Saints sign off season with defeat

ST MARTINS brought the curtain down on their West Midlands League division one campaign with a 2-0 loss at Newport Town.

Despite the defeat, the Saints will still finish fourth and look on course for promotion to the Hallmark North West Counties League division one (south) next season.

A goal in each half from Rob Millington earned Newport the points that kept alive their hopes of finishing runners-up.

With the league done and dusted, St Martins will host Bromyard Town in the semi-finals of the West Midlands League Cup on Saturday as they look to end the season with some silverware.

Meanwhile, FC Oswestry Town - who a few days before failed to raise a side for the trip to Bacup Borough - earned a creditable 1-1 draw at fourth placed Whitchurch Alport.

After falling behind to Nick Marley's 33rd minute opener in front of a 350 plus crowd at Yockings Park, Town earned parity after the break when Dan Tinsley netted against his old club.

The Oswestry side now head to the seaside on Saturday when they take on AFC Blackpool.

Waterloo Rovers missed out on the Tanners Town Cup after losing 1-0 to Bishop's Castle in the final in which a first half goal from Adam Putson proved enough to settle the issue.

Llanrhaeadr can't wait for challenge

CHAMPIONS Llanrhaeadr are relishing the challenges ahead after confirming they will be stepping up to play in the Huws Gray Cymru Alliance next season.

The villagers, who were presented with their Spar Mid Wales League title trophy last weekend, have gained the required FAW Tier Two licence to allow them to play in the Cymru Alliance.

They will ground share with Llansantffraid Village next season, playing their home games at Treflan while work is carried out to upgrade their own ground, including widening their pitch and installing more seats.

"It's exciting times and we can now start planning for next season," said chairman Mel Roberts.

The league title may be in the bag, but Llanrhaeadr eye more silverware when they host Llanfair in the Montgomeryshire Challenge Cup on Wednesday.

Clarke hits big ton

JOE Clarke dropped a timely hint to the England selectors after hitting his first century of the season.

The Oswestry batsman, who could feature for his home town club this summer, struck a fine 157 for Worcestershire in their Championship division one clash at Surrey. The 21-year-old batted for almost six hours, and cracked 18 fours as the Pears rattled up a season's best of 526 all out.

OSWESTRY IN BIG HOME TEST

CRICKET by John Bridgwater

OSWESTRY look to quickly dust themselves down as they chase much-needed points in Saturday's first home appearance of the Birmingham Cricket League season against Wellington (12noon).

The two Shropshire rivals find themselves propping up the division one table after their first couple of outings, and Oswestry will be keen to shake off their nine-wicket loss at Halesowen.

"We're just a few games in, and it's already a 40-pointer on Saturday," said chairman Chris Wiseman.

"Although we were rolled over last week, we're not too downhearted as we knew we had a weakened side. Hopefully, it was a one-off, and we can put it behind us."

The Morda Road men expect to field a stronger line-up on Saturday, but have again been frustrated in their attempts to bring in former India A all-rounder Rituraj Singh who is still waiting on his visa.

Oswestry's plans have been disrupted with skipper Robbie Clarke unavailable due to university commitments, so Dean Suter takes over the captaincy.

Despite Wellington's poor start, Clarke is anticipating another tough match against his former club who are captained this season by South African batsman Simon Khomari.

Impressive

There was no hiding place for the Oswestry's batsmen in the Halesowen sunshine as they soon found themselves in trouble with Warrick Fynn and Charlie Morris, promoted to No3, going cheaply.

Joe Carraso (25) and skipper Robbie Clarke (16) repaired some of the early damage, but when they departed, the last six batsmen could only muster 16 runs between them.

Charlie Hawker was the pick of an impressive home attack, returning figures of 6-34 as Oswestry were skittled out for 79 in just 24 overs.

The Worcestershire side had few alarms as they knocked off the target in the 19th over. Glamorgan second teamer Roman Walker took the only wicket to fall of Eddie Kilbree (43).

It was a tough league baptism for Oswestry's promising teenagers - Josh Darley, Floyd Owen and Max Oakley - who had performed well in the Twenty20 defeat against Bridgnorth on Thursday night.

Oswestry's second string fared no better as they were shot out for just 46 against Smethwick at the Stonehouse Oval. The visitors ran out comfortable winners with Adam Lloyd picking up two of the three wickets to fall.

Townend second at Badminton



Shropshire's Oliver Townend and Cooley SRS during the show jumping round at Badminton

SHROPSHIRE rider Oliver Townend ended a testing 24 hours by seeing his hopes of securing eventing's richest prize dashed on a thrilling final day at the Mitsubishi Motors Badminton Horse Trials.

Townend, from Duddleston Heath, near Ellesmere, still finished second on Cooley SRS, and fifth with Ballaghmor Class to collect £75,000.

But New Zealander Jonelle Price took Badminton's £100,000 top prize following a nerveless clear round aboard 15-year-old mare Classic Moet.

Lincolnshire's Ros Canter - a Great Britain European team gold medal-winning colleague of Townend's in Poland last September - was third on Allstar B, with Sussex challenger Gemma Tattersall fourth on Arctic Soul.

Townend had been chasing the Rolex Grand Slam - a £255,000 jackpot awarded to any rider that wins consecutive Burghley, Kentucky and Badminton titles.

He arrived in Gloucestershire with Burghley and Kentucky glory already secured, but despite a clear round on Cooley SRS' four-star

event debut and two fences down aboard Ballaghmor Class, 37-year-old Price prevailed.

Townend was issued with an official warning on Saturday for his riding of both of his horses during the cross-country phase. He was interviewed by the event's ground jury and warned regarding his over-use of the whip on both horses.

"I am disappointed," said Townend as he reflected on Saturday's events. "I am who I am. Kentucky last weekend felt fantastic and smooth for me, and I won it."

"I can win prettily and I can win ugly, and that is why I am seven times British No.1 and world No1 at the minute."

"Of course you are going to get critics, but AP McCoy, Lester Piggott, Conor McGregor, it doesn't matter who you are in sport. If you are at the top of your game, you are always going to get someone try and trample you."

Reviewing his Badminton campaign - the Grand Slam remains exclusive property of previous winners Pippa Funnell (2003) and Michael Jung (2016) - Townend added: "It's an unbelievable result, with hindsight."

TNS given seeding for Euro draw

THE New Saints will be seeded in the first qualifying round of the UEFA Champions League when the draw is made next month.

That means the Welsh Premier champions will avoid big guns such as Celtic and Red Star Belgrade, both former European Cup winners, and Ludogorets Razgrad, who have reached the Champions League group stage twice in the last four years.

They will face 17 potential opponents following a new format of the competition in the draw on Tuesday, June 19.

The first qualifying round takes place on 10-11 July, with the return leg being played the following week.

Meanwhile, Tom Holland has signed a new deal following a successful first season with TNS that saw the midfielder play a key role in lifting the Welsh Premier League and League Cup.

He rounded it off by taking the young player of the season honour at the end-of-season presentation night, and is relishing a summer playing in Europe.

"I'm delighted to have signed," he said. "As I only played briefly in the Champions League last season, I'm looking forward to testing myself against some European teams."

"I've enjoyed it while I've been here playing with this group of lads and think I've developed. I hope to continue developing and win more trophies."

Manager Scott Ruscoe was delighted to get his signature as he looks ahead to the 2018/2019 campaign:

"It's great news for the club that Tom has extended his contract with us. He's had an excellent first season and has been the standout young player by a long way."

The players are on a month's break before returning to training on June 4 as they prepare for the Champions League campaign in July.

Former TNS manager Craig Harrison, who parted company with Hartlepool United in February, is among the early names in the frame as AFC Telford begin their search for Rob Edwards' successor. Edwards left the New Bucks Head after only one season at the helm that saw the team finish 14th in National League North.

Guilsfield looking for some cup cheer

GUILSFIELD will look to round off a creditable campaign by lifting some silverware when they meet Cymru Alliance rivals Caersws in the Central Wales Cup final at Llanidloes on Friday (7.30).

Having defeated Llanfair United 4-1 in their semi-final, the Guils will now face a Bluebirds side who were 2-0 winners over Spar Mid Wales League division one high fliers Builth Wells. It's been a tough season for Caersws who are facing relegation from the Cymru Alliance, but they gave themselves some cup cheer thanks to second half strikes from Richard Davies and Steve Blenkinsop.

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